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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION

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INTRODUCTION

The first part of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 27 January to 7 February 1997. A resumed session was held on 3-4 April 1997 to complete the consideration of agenda item 4 (d) (Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme). The Council adopted the present proceedings at the 8th meeting of the session, on 7 February 1997.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

1. The nineteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council was opened on 27 January 1997 by Mr. S. Shafqat Kakakhel (Pakistan), President of the Council at its eighteenth session. He pointed to the interrelated nature of the main policy items on the Council's agenda, and suggested that the Council take an integrated approach to addressing them. He emphasized that there was a need to revisit the role and functions of UNEP in the changed circumstances since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The issues of good management, effective governance and adequate financing must be subjected to particular scrutiny by the Council. He noted with concern the declining trend in the Council-approved budget levels for the UNEP programme.

2. At the opening meeting of the nineteenth session, on 27 January 1997, the Council heard a statement by Ms. E. Dowdeswell, Executive Director of UNEP. In her statement, Ms. Dowdeswell reported on the accomplishments of the organization during 1996, and the steps it had taken to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness. She noted that regaining the credibility of UNEP as a world-class organization would require deep and far-reaching organizational reform. She observed that an examination of the role and focus of UNEP, and also of its governance, and the provision of a sound and adequate financial base were central to the reform of the organization. She highlighted the marked shortfall in contributions to the Environment Fund in 1996, in relation to the approved Fund programme budget, and its impact on implementing UNEP responsibilities under Agenda 21. She urged the Council to offer radical new views to ensure guaranteed, secure and adequate financing of the UNEP global environment programme. She emphasized that UNEP must emerge as an independent, objective and authoritative organization, equipped and empowered to champion global environmental issues, lead the United Nations in a concerted attack on the worst aspects of global environmental degradation, and develop, monitor and perhaps even enforce international environmental law. The full text of her statement was subsequently circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.19/29/Add.1.

3. The representative of Kenya welcomed the participants to Nairobi.

B. Attendance

4. The following 52 States members of the Governing Council [1] were represented at the session:

Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Benin
Brazil

Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Canada
Central African Republic

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[1] The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 54th plenary meeting of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, held on 11 November 1993, and the 68th plenary meeting of the fiftieth session, held on 21 November 1995 (decisions 48/309 and 50/308).

Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Mauritania
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Slovakia
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zambia
Zimbabwe

5. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Austria
Bangladesh
Belgium
Botswana
Cameroon
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Cyprus
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Guyana
Holy See
Iceland
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Jordan
Kazakstan
Kuwait
Lesotho
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Uruguay
Viet Nam
Yemen

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6. The following United Nations bodies, Secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented:

United Nations General Assembly
Commission on Sustainable Development
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
Department of Humanitarian Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea
Office to Combat Desertification and Drought
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
United Nations Population Fund
Economic Commission for Europe
Interim Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification
Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals
Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Secretariat of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

7. A representative of the Global Environment Facility was also present.

8. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Civil Aviation Organization
International Maritime Organization
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Industrial and Development Organization
Universal Postal Union
World Health Organization
World Intellectual Property Organization
World Meteorological Organization
World Tourism Organization

9. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank
Comisión Permanente del Pacifico Sur
European Community
League of Arab States
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Organization of African Unity

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Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Southern African Development Community

11. In addition, 40 non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

12. Members of the following national technical committees for UNEP also attended the session: Committee of the Republic of Korea for UNEP, Committee of the Russian Federation for UNEP, Spanish National Committee for UNEP.

C. Election of officers

13. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Mr. Arnoldo José Gabaldón (Venezuela)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Sid-Ali Ketrandji (Algeria)
Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India)
Mr. Boris Maiorski (Russian Federation)

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Haddow (Canada)

14. In his acceptance statement, the President said that the reduction in the financial resources available to UNEP represented a lowering of the political influence exerted by the organization. The Council needed to address three major questions: why UNEP was going through such hard times; what the Council's aspirations were for the global environmental agenda; and what steps were needed to transform UNEP into the body that the Council wanted it to be. He observed that a revision of the role and functions of UNEP should be seen in the context of, first, the ongoing system-wide reform of the United Nations system; second, the need for environmental considerations to be more effectively factored into the decision-making processes of the United Nations system; and, third, a revision of the relationship of UNEP with the relevant actors in the environmental field, particularly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). He noted that global environmental improvement was the primary objective and that it was necessary to improve the governance, effectiveness and efficiency of UNEP and to enhance its decentralization, including by strengthening the autonomy of its regional offices and the participation of non-governmental organizations in its work.

D. Credentials of representatives

15. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 4th plenary meeting of the session, on 6 February 1997.

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E. Agenda

16. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council at its eighteenth session (UNEP/GC.19/1):

1. Opening of the session
2. Organization of the session:
    (a) Election of officers;
    (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
    (a) State of the environment;
    (b) Emerging policy issues;
    (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;
    (d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.
5. Preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21.
6. Programme matters.
7. The Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
8. Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

17. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda and organization of work (UNEP/GC.19/1/Add.1/Rev.1) and the provisional timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.19/1/Add.1/Rev.1, annexes II and III).

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18. Notwithstanding the provisions of rule 60 of its rules of procedure and the organizational structure for its sessions decided upon at its fifteenth session (decision 15/1, section II, paragraph 2, of 25 May 1989), the Governing Council decided, at its opening meeting, in view of the need for a closer integration of its deliberations on policy, programme and budgetary matters, to establish a Committee of the Whole to consider the greater part of its business in preparation for the high-level segment, with the flexibility to set up such subcommittees as might be desirable. The Council further decided that the Committee of the Whole should deal with agenda items 4 (a), (b) and (c), 6 and 7 of the agenda. Initially, it would also address additional items, such as items 4 (d) and 5.

19. It was agreed that the Committee of the Whole, or such subcommittees as it might decide to establish, would meet from 27 January to 3 February 1997 and that the remainder of the session would be devoted to plenary meetings, including the high-level segment from 5 to 7 February 1997 and the pledging session on 5 February 1997.

20. The Council agreed that the following items of the provisional agenda would be addressed primarily in plenary meetings: item 1 (Opening of the session); item 2 (Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session); item 3 (Credentials of representatives); item 4 (d) (Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme); item 5 (Preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21); item 8 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Council); item 9 (Other matters); item 10 (Adoption of the report); and item 11 (Closure of the session).

21. The Council decided that Mr. Sreenivasan, Vice-President of the Council, would chair the Committee of the Whole.

G. Report of the high-level segment

22. The report of the high-level segment of the session, held from 5 to 7 February 1997, is contained in annex II to these proceedings.

H. Report of the Committee of the Whole

23. The Committee of the Whole held 15 meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. Sreenivasan (India), Vice-President of the Council, from 27 January to 7 February 1997, to consider the following items allocated to it by the Council:

(a) State of the environment (agenda item 4 (a));

(b) Emerging policy issues (agenda item 4 (b));

(c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations (agenda item 4 (c));

(d) Programme matters (agenda item 6);

(e) The Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (agenda item 7).

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24. The Committee also held an initial discussion on items 4 (d) (Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme) and 5 (Preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21).

25. At its 1st meeting, the Committee of the Whole elected Mr. Paul Haddow (Canada), Rapporteur of the Council, to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Committee and as Rapporteur for its meetings.

26. Also as agreed by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session, the Committee of the Whole established two subcommittees, one on programme matters, chaired by Mr. Sid-Ali Ketrandji (Algeria), Vice-President of the Council, and the other, chaired by the Chairman of the Committee, on the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters. These subcommittees met separately on 29 January to continue the discussions initiated in the Committee of the Whole and to take up the remaining issues under items 4 and 6 and item 7, respectively. The Programme Subcommittee elected Ms. E. R. Mwenda (Kenya) to serve as Rapporteur for its meetings, and the Fund Subcommittee agreed that Mr. Haddow, Rapporteur of the Council and the Committee of the Whole, would serve in the same capacity for its meetings.

27. The Programme and Fund Subcommittees both held two meetings, on 29 January. The reports on the work of those meetings are incorporated into the present proceedings under the relevant agenda item.

28. The report of the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.19/L.70) was adopted by the Governing Council at its 8th meeting, on 7 February 1997. The report is incorporated into the present proceedings under the relevant agenda items.

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II. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS 2/

Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 19/1)

1. At the 7th meeting of the nineteenth session, on 7 February 1997, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.44/Rev.1), submitted by the President of the Council.

2. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997 (decision 19/2)

3. At the 8th meeting of the session, also on 7 February, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.62), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, as amended by the representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The draft replaced draft decision IX on the same subject contained in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23).

4. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Report on the Global Environment Outlook (decision 19/3)

5. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.27), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision VII in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23), as amended by the representatives of Canada, Mauritius and the United States of America.

6. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Global assessment (decision 19/4)

7. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.55), which was approved on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of Canada, Kenya and the United States of America, as amended by the representative of Colombia and revised by the representative of the United States of America.

8. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

2/ For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, see annex I to the present proceedings.

9. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of an additional $1.3 million over and above the allocation for 1998-1999 Fund programme activities. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention (decision 19/5)

10. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.51), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision IV in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23), as amended by the representative of India.

11. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Globalization and the environment: emerging issues on the trade and environment agenda (decision 19/6)

12. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.56), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.20 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the representative of the Netherlands.

13. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development (decision 19/7)

14. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.34), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of Canada, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States of America, replacing draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.16 on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

15. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 19/8)

16. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.30), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the Group of 77 and China and which replaced draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.7 on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

17. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

18. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of an additional $300,000 over and above the allocation for 1997. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations system (decisions 19/9 A to E)

Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (decision 19/9 A)

19. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.40), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.11 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

20. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

United Nations system-wide strategy in the field of the environment for the period 1998-2002 (decision 19/9 B)

21. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.41), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.13 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

22. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Coordination of convention secretariats (decision 19/9 C)

23. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.49), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, as amended by the representative of the United States of America and with a correction to the name of the sponsor. The Chairman's draft replaced a draft decision on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.5).

24. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (decision 19/9 D)

25. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.48), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole by acclamation on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representative of Canada. This draft decision replaced a draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.4).

26. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

27. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of an additional $200,000 over and above the allocation for 1997. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (decision 19/9 E)

28. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.38), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.8 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

29. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Progress report on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations system (decision 19/10)

30. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.28), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision VII in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23), as amended by the representative of the United States of America.

31. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first session specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 19/11)

32. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.43), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision I contained in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23).

33. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility (decision 19/12)

34. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.39), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.10 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with the deletion of the bracketed text in paragraph 2.

35. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Chemicals management (decisions 19/13 A to D)

Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade (decision 19/13 A)

36. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.58), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the Chairman of the chemicals working group, as amended by the representatives of Benin and Romania. The draft replaced draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.18 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

37. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals (decision 19/13 B)

38. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.57 and Corr.1), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of a revised informal draft submitted by the Chairman of the chemicals working group that had been established by the Committee at its 3rd meeting, with technical amendments agreed by the Committee at the suggestion of the secretariat.

39. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

40. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of an additional $100,000 over and above the allocation for 1997. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

International action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (decision 19/13 C)

41. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.61 and Corr.1), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the Chairman of the chemicals working group, as amended by the representatives of Benin, Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union). The draft replaced draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.17 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

42. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

43. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of $1.56 million over and above the allocation for 1997. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

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Enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals (decision 19/13 D)

44. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.60), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the Chairman of the chemicals working group.

45. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

46. The representative of Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, in the view of the European Union, the four decisions in question (19/13 A to D) constituted a cluster or package for the sound management of chemicals at the international level. That view had also been accepted by the chemicals working group.

47. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation could involve financial implications of up to $75,000 over and above the allocation for 1997. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

Water management (decisions 19/14 A to E)

Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (decision 19/14 A)

48. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.36), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of Bangladesh, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, combining draft decisions UNEP/GC.19/L.6 and UNEP/GC.19/L.19 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

49. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Institutional arrangements for implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: strengthening of the regional seas programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (decision 19/14 B)

50. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.32), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, with additional text added by the Committee in paragraph 2.

51. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Oceans management (decision 19/14 C)

52. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.35), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of Colombia and the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union).

53. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

54. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of an additional $250,000 over and above the allocation for 1998-1999 Fund programme activities. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

Freshwater (decision 19/14 D)

55. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.53), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of Canada, China, Japan, Kenya, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, with an editorial correction to the operative paragraph.

56. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific (decision 19/14 E)

57. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.31/Rev.1), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, on the understanding that the representatives of the United States of America and Colombia would hold consultations with to view to a decision on the nomenclature to be used for the geographical area to be covered by the programme. The approved draft decision was subsequently revised to reflect the agreed nomenclature.

58. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International Coral Reef Initiative (decision 19/15)

59. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.54), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Colombia, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Panama, the Philippines, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America and Venezuela.

60. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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61. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of an additional $300,000 over and above the allocation for 1998-1999 Fund programme activities. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

Biosafety (decision 19/16)

62. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.65), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representative of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), as revised by the sponsor following informal consultations.

63. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme toward the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1995-1996 (decision 19/17)

64. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.59), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representative of Benin, as amended by the representative of Egypt. The draft replaced draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.3 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

65. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (decision 19/18)

66. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.66), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representatives of Cuba, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries. The draft merged an earlier proposal by those States with a proposal on the same subject submitted by Mauritius and was approved as amended by the Committee.

67. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation (decision 19/19)

68. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.45), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.14 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

69. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Mid-term review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development (decision 19/20)

70. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.26), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.21 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with amendments introduced after informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Russian Federation.

71. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 19/21)

72. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.42), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision XI in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23).

73. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1996-1997 and proposals for 1998-1999 (decision 19/22)

74. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, which was introduced by the representative of Canada as Chairman of the working group on budgetary matters.

75. Amendments to the draft decision were introduced by the representatives of Australia and Pakistan.

76. The representative of the United States of America, while welcoming the spirit of cooperation that had been evident in the discussions on the draft decision, said that any increase in her country's contribution to the Environment Fund over its 1996 level would be contingent on its perception of how UNEP was addressing the institutional challenges before it. The United States of America supported the budget proposals in the draft decision but wished to make it clear that the difference between the $70 million level that the United States of America had originally advocated and the $75 million level that been agreed could not be made up by an increase in the United States of America contribution. She therefore urged other Governments to give serious consideration to increasing their own contributions. Finally, she said that, in the future, it was imperative for UNEP to base its programme of work on a scientific assessment of trends in the world environmental situation.

77. The representative of Canada said that her delegation supported the draft decision, which sent a message of support to UNEP but, at the same time, was realistic with regard to expected contributions. She hoped that the confidence was well founded. Expressing concern at the lack of a

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detailed discussion of the proposed programme of work at the current session, she urged that efforts should be made to avoid a repetition of such an omission at future sessions.

78. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that those delegations supported the draft decision and welcomed the spirit of cooperation shown in the negotiations.

79. The draft decision was adopted by consensus, with the amendments introduced by the representatives of Australia and Pakistan.

80. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that, while the Governing Council had given the secretariat clearer guidance than at any time in the past, she had a number of concerns about the budgets that had been adopted. The greatest concern related to the cuts in information and public affairs, at a time when it was more essential than ever that UNEP should reach out to world public opinion. The allocation for the management and administrative support costs (MASC) budget was such that serious discussions with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) would be needed. The staffing cuts facing the Corporate Planning and Accountability Service would affect the development of unified databases, while those in Fund management were regrettable at a time when the Internal Auditors were calling for a strengthening of such activities. On the question of regional representation, where staff reductions would undoubtedly be needed, it was not yet clear whether such reductions should be spread over all regional offices or whether, in certain regions, some alternative formula would have to be found. She also feared that the cuts in other areas of the budget would severely curtail the ability of UNEP to service intergovernmental meetings. Finally, she said that fund-raising efforts would continue in order to achieve the target of $105 million for Fund programme activities.

Ensuring adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 19/23)

81. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, which was introduced by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

82. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Trust funds (decisions 19/24 A and B)

Management of trust funds (decision 19/24 A)

83. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.46), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.2/Rev.1, which revised a draft decision on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

84. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Management issues and the cost of administering trust funds (decision 19/24 B)

85. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.47), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representative of the United States of America, as revised at the suggestion of the secretariat. The draft replaced draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.12 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

86. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

87. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of an additional $50,000 over and above the allocation for 1998-1999 Fund programme activities. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and revision of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 19/25)

88. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.37), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal revised draft of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.22, with amendments introduced by the representative of the United States of America.

89. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1994-1995 ended 31 December 1995 (decision 19/26)

90. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.52), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision XII in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23), as amended by the representative of the United States of America.

91. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Developments in conference-servicing (decision 19/27)

92. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.33), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the United States to replace decision II in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23).

93. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Enhancing human-resource utilization within the United Nations Environment Programme, while ensuring the complementary and appropriate use of individual and corporate consultancies (decision 19/28)

94. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.29), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.9 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the representatives Australia and the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union).

95. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Management issues (decisions 19/29 A and B)

Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement (decision 19/29 A)

96. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.50), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representative of the United States of America, as amended by the representatives of Australia and Egypt and revised by the sponsor. The draft replaced draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.15 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

97. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations environment programme (19/29 B)

98. At its 10th meeting, on 4 April 1997, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.72), submitted by the Group of 77 and China.

99. The draft decision was adopted by consensus, with an amendment proposed by the representative of Switzerland.

Mercure satellite communications system (decision 19/30)

100. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.64), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal proposal by Austria, Belgium, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, with revisions introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom. The proposal had incorporated into draft decision V in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23) the amendments thereto proposed by the secretariat at the request of the Chairman of the Committee and previous amendments proposed by Austria, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

101. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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102. Following the adoption of the decision, the Executive Director said that its implementation would involve financial implications of an additional $1.4 million over and above the allocation for 1998-1999 Fund programme activities. UNEP would seek counterpart funding to enable the activity to be completed within the given timeframe.

Strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 19/31)

103. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.63), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of an informal draft submitted by the representative of Mexico on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, as amended by the representatives of Australia and China.

104. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 19/32)

105. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 4 April 1997, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.19/L.71), submitted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Governance.

106. The draft decision, as revised by the Ad Hoc Working Group, was adopted by consensus.

107. Following the adoption of the draft decision, the representative of the United States of America proposed an amendment to paragraph 1 (a), whereby the words "reform and" would be inserted after the words "to make".

108. Following a procedural discussion, the representative of the Russian Federation called for a vote on the request for reconsideration of the draft decision, in accordance with rule 46 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

109. By a vote of 26 to 1 with 4 abstentions, the Council decided to reconsider draft decision UNEP/GC.19/L.71.

110. The draft decision was adopted by consensus with the amendment introduced by the representative of the United States of America.

Other decisions

Constitution of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials established pursuant to decision 19/32

111. The procedure for the constitution of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, as put before the Council by the President and agreed to by representatives, is set out in the decision on the constitution of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials established pursuant to decision 19/32, contained in the section entitled "Other decisions", in annex I to the present proceedings.

Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Council

112. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 7 February 1997, the Governing Council had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the twentieth regular session of the Council, together with a draft provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.19/L.67/Rev.1).

113. The proposal of the Bureau was adopted by consensus.

114. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, the Council decided, in the light of paragraph 14 of its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997, to revise its decision of 7 February so that the twentieth session of the Governing Council would be of five days duration, from 24 to 28 May 1999.

Special session of the Governing Council to review the results and decisions of the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

115. At its 8th plenary meeting, 7 February 1997, the Governing Council decided to hold a special session, from 12 to 14 November 1997, to review reports to be completed by the secretariat, as well as the results and decisions of the General Assembly at its special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

116. However, at its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, the Governing Council decided, in order to allow the secretariat sufficient time to complete the tasks assigned to it at the nineteenth session of the Council, that dates of the special session should not be fixed as yet but that it should be held over a three-day period between late 1997 and the end of January 1998. It was further decided that the secretariat should provide appropriate advance notification of the exact dates, once determined, and distribute the required documentation in accordance with established procedures.

III. POLICY ISSUES

A. State of the environment

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, paragraphs 18-21, above), items 4 (a), (b) and (c) were discussed in the Committee of the Whole, while item 4 (d) was addressed primarily in plenary meetings.

2. In considering item 4 (a) (State of the environment), the Council had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook (UNEP/GC.19/26) and the report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.19/13).

3. It also had before it a draft decision on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.19/L.7), which had been prepared by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and considered by that Committee. In addition, it had before it a draft decision on the report on the Global Environment Outlook, contained in section VII of the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23).

4. The item was taken up by the Programme Subcommittee at its 2nd meeting, on 29 January.

5. At that meeting,the secretariat introduced the report on the Global Environment Outlook, which had been prepared in response to Governing Council decision 18/27 C and General Assembly resolution 50/110. The Subcommittee then heard statements on the subject from the representatives of Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Canada, China, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, and the United States of America. The representatives of the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization also made statements.

6. On conclusion of the debate, the Director for Environmental Assessment, said that the comments and criticisms made would be taken as constructive recommendations for the future. He noted that Governments were prepared to participate in future consultations and that there should be strong linkage between assessment activities and environmental management through programmes. He welcomed the appreciation of the assessment by UNEP focused on regional elements and emphasized that, although it was not easy to incorporate national reporting into a policy-oriented publication such as the Global Environment Outlook, endeavours would be made to enhance regional, subregional and country consultation for future reports.

7. At its 5th, 6th, 9th and 11th meetings, on 30 and 31 January and 3 February, the Committee of the Whole considered draft decisions submitted under this item, together with the relevant background documentation.

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Action by the Council

8. On the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Council, at its 8th meeting, on 7 February 1997, adopted the following decisions under this item: decision 19/3, 19/4 and 19/8. The text of those decisions is contained in annex I to the present proceedings and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

B. Emerging policy issues

9. In considering subitem 4 (b) (Emerging policy issues), the Council had before it the report of the Executive Director on globalization and the environment: emerging issues on the environment and trade agenda (UNEP/GC.19/27).

10. It also had before it a draft decision on globalization and the environment (UNEP/GC.19/L.20), which had been prepared by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and considered by that Committee.

11. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 3 February, the Committee of the Whole considered a draft decision under this item, together with the relevant background documentation.

Action by the Council

12. On the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Council, at its 8th meeting, on 7 February 1997, adopted the following decision under this item: decision 19/6. The text of the decision is contained in annex I to the present proceedings and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

C. Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations

13. In considering agenda item 4 (c) (Cooperation and coordination within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations), the Council had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations system-wide strategy in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.19/19) and the draft United Nations system-wide strategy in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.19/INF.11 (English only) and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (UNEP/GC.19/17); a note by the Executive Director on memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between UNEP and other organizations of the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.19/INF.2 (English only) and Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on UNEP's effort toward the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1995-1996 (UNEP/GC.19/7); the joint report of the Executive Directors of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) on cooperation between United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) (UNEP/GC.19/8); the report of the Executive Director on coordination of convention secretariats (UNEP/GC.19/11); the report of the Executive Director

on the participation of UNEP in the work of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (UNEP/GC.19/16), together with an overview of UNEP GEF-funded activities (UNEP/GC.19/INF.15); the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to the UNEP Governing Council on international cooperation in the field of environment on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.19/12); the report of the Executive Director on steps taken by UNEP and other United Nations entities on good environmental housekeeping (UNEP/GC.19/28); and the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolution of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.19/2 and Add.1).

14. It also had before it draft decisions on the following topics that had been prepared by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and considered by that Committee: cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNEP/GC.19/L.4); coordination of convention secretariats (UNEP/GC.19/L.5); report of the Administrative Committee cn Coordination to the Governing Council on international cooperation in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.19/L.6); participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GC.19/L.10); Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (UNEP/GC.19/L.11); United Nations system-wide strategy in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.19/L.13); and the role of women in environment and development (UNEP/GC.19/L.16). In addition, it had before it draft decisions on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme and on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations system, contained in sections I and VIII, respectively, of the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23).

15. The item was taken up by the Programme Subcommittee at its 1st meeting, on 29 January.

16. Before it had begun its formal consideration of the item, the Committee of the Whole, at its 2nd meeting, on 28 January, heard a statement on cooperation between UNEP and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS), delivered on behalf of the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) by the Director, Office of Programme Coordination of UNCHS (Habitat).

17. At its 1st meeting, on the Programme Subcommittee considered those aspects of the item relating to the role of women in environment and development and heard statements from the representatives of Australia, Canada, Columbia, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland, and the United States. The representative of the African Development Bank also made a statement. The representative of Canada introduced an amendment to the draft decision on the subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.16).

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18. Also at its 1st meeting, the Programme Subcommittee considered the question of coordination of convention secretariats and heard statements on the subject from the representatives of Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Russian Federation, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Kingdom. A number of those representatives stated that recent ratifications of international environment agreements by their Governments had not been reflected in the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.19/31). The secretariat took note of the statements with a view to including those ratifications in the revised report that would be submitted to the General Assembly on behalf of the Council.

19. At its 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 30 and 31 January and 3 February, the Committee of the Whole took up draft decisions submitted under this item, together with the relevant background documentation.

20. At its 10th meeting, the Committee heard a statement under this item from Dr. R. Getchev, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria and Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Action by the Council

21. On the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Council, at its 8th meeting, on 7 February 1997, adopted the following decisions under this item: decisions 19/7, 19/9 A to E, 19/10, 19/11 and 19/12. The text of those decisions is contained in annex I to the present proceedings and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

D. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme

22. In considering item 4 (d) (Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme), the Council had before it the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governing structures of UNEP (UNEP/GC.19/10) and a note by the Executive Director transmitting the position of the Group of 77 and China on the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.19/INF.20).

23. It also had before it draft decisions and suggestions relating to the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governing structures of UNEP, as contained in section III of the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23).

24. The item was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at its 7th meeting, on 31 January 1997, in conjunction with agenda 5 (Preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21). At that meeting, the Committee heard statement from the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh (for the Group of 77 and China), Brazil, China, Colombia (for the Group of 77 and China), Cuba, Egypt, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands (for the European Union), Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the United Republic of

Tanzania, and the United States of America. The Chairman said that a drafting group on the governance of UNEP would be constituted under the chairmanship of the representative of the Russian Federation, Vice-President Council.

25. At its 8th meeting, also on 31 January, the Committee heard statements under this item by the representatives of Colombia, Japan, India, Kenya, Mauritania, Sudan, Switzerland, and Zimbabwe.

26. The Chairman's summary of the discussion in the Committee under agenda item 4 (d), as adopted by the Committee, is contained in annex III to the present proceedings.

27. Because of the complexity of the issues involved, it was decided at the 8th plenary meeting to adjourn the session and resume at a later date.

28. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 3 April 1997, it was decided that the discussion under agenda item 4 (d) should continued in an Ad Hoc Working Group on Governance, under the chairmanship of Mr. Pavel Suian (Romania), which had been established for that purpose.

29. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, the Council considered and adopted decision 19/32, on the issue of governance of UNEP. In addition, the Council adopted another decision under the item, on the constitution of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials established pursuant to decision 19/32. The text of these decisions is contained in annex I to the present proceedings and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II.

IV. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1997 REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF AGENDA 21

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, paragraphs 18-21, above), agenda item 5 was initially discussed in the Committee of the Whole and then taken up in plenary meetings.

2. In considering the agenda item, the Council had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director on the contribution by UNEP to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997 (UNEP/GC.19/30 and Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook (UNEP/GC.19/26); the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governing structures of UNEP (UNEP/GC.19/10); the note by the Executive Director on ensuring adequate and predictable financing of UNEP: a challenge to Governments (UNEP/GC.19/INF.10 (English only)); and the report of the Executive Director on estimates of costs for UNEP to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention (UNEP/GC.19/20).

3. It also had before it a draft decision on estimates of costs to UNEP to fully implement those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention, contained in the compilation of suggestions regarding drafts decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23, draft decision IV).

4. The item was taken up initially by the Committee of the Whole at its 7th meeting on 31 January 1997, in conjunction with agenda item 4 (d) (see chapter III, paragraph 24 above).

5. At the 10th meeting of the Committee, on 3 February, the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) said that they intended to submit position papers on the future role of the United Nations Environment Programme.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee also heard a statement under the item from the representative of the World Meteorological Organization.

7. At its 11th meeting, on 3 February, the Committee heard statements under this item from the representatives of India, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation. These statements concluded the general debate under this item in the Committee of the Whole.

8. The Chairman's summary of the discussion in the Committee under agenda item 5, as adopted by the Committee, is contained in annex III to the present proceedings.

9. At its 11th and 13th meetings, on 3 and 4 February, the Committee considered draft decisions submitted under this item, together with the relevant background documentation.

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Action by the Council

10. At its 7th meeting, on 7 February 1997, the Council proceeded to consider and adopt the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as contained in decision 19/1.

11. In addition, and on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Council, at its 8th meeting, also on 7 February 1997, adopted the following other decisions under this item: decisions 19/2 and 19/5. The text of those decisions is contained in annex I to the present proceedings and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

V. PROGRAMME MATTERS

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, paragraphs 18-21, above), agenda item 6 was discussed in the Committee of the Whole.

2. In considering the agenda item, the Council had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director entitled "The Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1996-1997 and proposals for 1998-1999" (UNEP/GC.19/22); the note by the Executive Director on the mid-term review and status of implementation of the programme of work 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.19/INF.9 (English only)), together with a memorandum dated 24 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to UNEP, as Chairman of the Nairobi Chapter of the Group of 77 and China, transmitting the position of the group of 77 and China on the mid-term review of the programme of work of UNEP (UNEP/GC.19/L.24); the report of the Executive Director on UNEP's role as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.19/25), together with the related report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to the UNEP Governing Council on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.19/12) submitted under agenda item 4 (c) and an information document on institutional arrangements for implementing of the Global Programme of Action for Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.19/INF.4 (English only)); a progress report by the Executive Director on the development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the Prior Informed Consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade and further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals (UNEP/GC.19/24), together with a note by the Executive Director transmitting the report of the Government-designated Group of Experts on Further Measures to Reduce the Risks from a Limited Number of Hazardous Chemicals on its work (UNEP/GC.19/INF.7), a summary of the responses to a letter from the Executive Director to Governments seeking their views on a possible integrated international mechanism concerning the management of hazardous chemicals (UNEP/GC.19/INF.21) and an analysis of the cost and benefits of possible further measures to address information needs related to the PIC procedure (UNEP/GC.19/INF.23); the report of the Executive Director on progress made in the implementation of Governing Council decision 18/32, including the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (UNEP/GC.19/23), together with notes by the Executive Director transmitting the final report of the IFCS Ad Hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants (UNEP/GC.19/INF.8) and the views of Greenpeace International on the timing, scope and mandate of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/GC.19/INF.19 (English only)); a note by the Executive Director transmitting the report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to the nineteenth session of the Governing Council ((UNEP/GC.19/INF.22); the report of the Executive Director on progress made in further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development (UNEP/GC.19/32), together with notes by the Executive Director transmitting the mid-term report of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s (UNEP/GC.19/INF.13 (English only)), the

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position paper for international environmental law aiming at sustainable development (UNEP/GC.19/INF.12 (English only)), and the report of the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law (UNEP/GC.19/INF.14 (English only)); a note by the Executive Director transmitting a preliminary study on the need for and feasibility of new international instruments aiming at sustainable development (UNEP/GC.19/INF.18); the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.19/31 and Corr.1 and 2); the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development (UNEP/GC.19/9); the report of the Executive Director on improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (UNEP/GC.19/14); and the report of the Executive Director on actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services included in the report "In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment" (UNEP/GC.19/INF.3 (English only)).

3. It also had before it draft decisions on the following topics that had been prepared by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and considered by that Committee: improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (UNEP/GC.19/L.8); Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation (UNEP/GC.19/L.14); recommendations by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety for international action on persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/GC.19/L.17); progress report on the development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and the consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals (UNEP/GC.19/L.18); the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GC.19/L.19); and mid-term review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development (UNEP/GC.19/L.21). In addition, it had before it a draft decision on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, contained in section XI of the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23), and a draft decision submitted by the Governments of Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands, contained in section XIII of the same document.

4. The item was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at its 2nd meeting, on 28 January. It was also considered by the Programme Subcommittee at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 29 January.

5. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 28 January 1997, the Committee of the Whole heard statements on programme matters relating to chemicals management from the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ghana, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iran, Japan, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, the United States of America, Zimbabwe. The representative of Canada made a statement on behalf of the IFCS Ad Hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The Committee also heard statements on programme matters

related to chemicals management from the representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

6. It was agreed to set up an informal group on the subject, under the chairmanship of Canada, to report back with draft decisions to the Committee of the Whole.

7. Also at its 3rd meeting, the Committee heard statements concerning the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities from the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union),Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America. The Committee of the Whole also heard statements relating to the Global Programme of Action from the representatives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

8. The representative of Canada also invited delegates to consider an informal meeting to clarify the allocation of resources between freshwater and coastal/ocean issues and institutional arrangements for the Global Programme of Action. It was agreed that the Republic of Korea would coordinate informal discussions on the subject and return to the Committee with a draft decision.

9. Also at its 3rd meeting, the Committee heard statements relating to the environmental law programme from the representatives of Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Mauritius, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe. Representatives of the International Council for Environmental Law (ICEL), the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) also spoke.

10. At its 1st meeting, on 29 January 1997, the Programme Subcommittee heard an introductory statement by the secretariat on subprogramme 1 (Sustainable management and use of natural resources) of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999. It then heard statements on issues related to that subprogramme from the representatives of Ghana, Kenya and Uganda. Following a procedural discussion, however, the Subcommittee decided to postpone further discussion on the proposed programme of work.

11. At the same meeting, the Subcommittee also considered the question of improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies and heard statements on the subject from the representatives of Kenya, Mauritania, the Russian Federation, and Switzerland. The representative of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs also made a statement.

12. Also at the 1st meeting of the Programme Subcommittee, the secretariat introduced the report of the Executive Director on actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services included in

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the report "In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment" (UNEP/GC.19/INF.3 (English only)). The representative of Australia made a statement on issues related to the report.

13. At its 4th meeting, on 30 January, the Committee heard a statement under agenda item 6 from the representative of Iraq.

14. At its 5th meeting, on 30 January, the Committee heard a statement by Professor Bolin, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, who introduced his report to the Council on progress made in the work of IPCC since the eighteenth session of the Council and reviewed the accomplishments of the Panel over the period.

15. At its 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th to 13th meetings, on 30 and 31 January and 3 and 4 February, the Committee took up draft decisions submitted under this item, together with the relevant background documentation.

Action by the Council

16. On the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Council, at its 8th meeting, on 7 February 1997, adopted the following decisions under this item: decisions 19/13 A to D, 19/14 A to E and 19/15 to 19/21. The text of those decisions is contained in annex I to the present proceedings and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

VI. THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER BUDGETARY MATTERS

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, paragraphs 18-21, above), agenda item 7 was discussed in the Committee of the Whole. In addition, also under this item, the 6th plenary meeting, on 6 February 1997, was devoted to a pledging session.

2. In considering the agenda item, the Council had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director entitled "The Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1996-1997 and proposals for 1998-1999" (UNEP/GC.19/22) and the note by the Executive Director transmitting the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the composite budget document of UNEP (UNEP/GC.19/L.1); a note by the Executive Director transmitting a report entitled "Ensuring adequate and predictable financing of UNEP: a challenge to Governments" (UNEP/GC.19/INF.10 (English only) and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on developments in conference-servicing (UNEP/GC.19/5); the report of the Executive Director on progress made on the implementation of the Mercure satellite telecommunications system (UNEP/GC.19/21); the report of the Executive Director on the administrative costs of trust funds to UNEP (UNEP/GC.19/18); the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds (UNEP/GC.19/4 and Rev.1 and Corr.1); the Executive Director's comments on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1994-1995 (UNEP/GC.19/33); a note by the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors (UNEP/GC.19/INF.5 (English only)); a note by the Executive Director transmitting the biennial report of the Board of Auditors to UNEP (UNEP/GC.19/INF.1); the report of the Executive Director on revision of the Financial Rules of UNEP and revision of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of UNEP (UNEP/GC.19/3); the report of the Executive Director on enhancing human resource utilization within UNEP while ensuring the complementary and appropriate use of individual and corporate consultancies (UNEP/GC.19/15); the report of the Executive Director on prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement in UNEP (UNEP/GC.19/6 and Add.1); and a note by the Executive Director transmitting additional information on the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters (UNEP/GC.19/INF.24).

3. It also had before it draft decisions on the following topics that had been prepared by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and considered by that Committee: management of trust funds (UNEP/GC.19/L.2); enhancing human-resource utilization within the United Nations Environment Programme, while ensuring the complementary and appropriate use of individual and corporate consultancies (UNEP/GC.19/L.9); the cost of administering trust funds (UNEP/GC.19/L.12); prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement (UNEP/GC.19/L.15); revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and revision of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.19/L.22). In addition, it had before it draft decisions on developments in conference-servicing, the Mercure satellite communication system, the Environment Fund budgets, and the financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1994-1995 ended 31 December 1995,

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contained in sections II, V, VI and XII, respectively, of the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23).

4. The item was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at its 1st meeting, on 27 January 1997. It was also considered by the Fund Subcommittee at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 29 January 1997.

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 27 and 28 January 1997, the Committee of the Whole had a general debate on this item and heard statements by the representatives of Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, China, Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The representative of Kenya formally requested that the written text of the statement made by the representative of the United States should be distributed.

6. At its 1st meeting, on 29 January 1997, the Fund Subcommittee focused on the revised appropriations of Fund resources in 1996-1997 biennium of $34,861,400 for the management and administrative support costs budget and $62,500,00 for the Fund programme activities budget, as set out in paragraph 10 of section I of the draft decision relating to the report of the Executive Director on the Environment Fund budgets, contained in the compilation of suggestions regarding draft decisions that had been considered by the Drafting Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.19/L.23, pp. 19-24). Following a briefing by the Chairman on the outcome of the informal consultations on the matter, the Subcommittee heard statements by the representatives of Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Canada, China, Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Egypt, Kenya, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States of America.

7. At the same meeting, the Subcommittee heard an introductory statement by the Assistant Executive Director on the revised appropriation for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 and the appropriation for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1998-1999. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Executive Director pointed out that the revised 1996-1997 appropriations for Fund programme activities, as presented in table 22 of the Executive Director's report (UNEP/GC.19/22 and Corr.1), followed the same subprogramme/subprogramme-element format as the appropriations originally approved by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session, and that now going to the level of subprogramme element components for the revised appropriations would be extremely difficult because of the interlinkages between subprogrammes elements and the financial control mechanisms already in place.

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8. Following the introductory statement, the Subcommittee, at its 2nd meeting, also on 29 January, heard statements on the subject from the representatives of Canada, Colombia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, and Uganda.

9. At the 4th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 30 January, the representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced an amendment to paragraph 10 of section I of the draft decision relating to the report of the Executive Director on the Environment Fund budgets. Statements regarding the amendment were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), the Philippines, and the United States of America. The Committee also heard statements on section I of the draft decision as a whole from the representatives of Australia and Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China).

10. Also at its 4th meeting, the Committee considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the Environment Fund budgets (UNEP/GC.19/L.1). Having heard an introductory statement by the secretariat and statements on the report from the representatives of India and Sweden, the Committee decided to take note of the report and to request the secretariat transmit its response to the Advisory Committee.

11. At its 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th to 14th meetings, on 30 and 31 January and 3, 4 and 6 February, the Committee took up draft decisions submitted under this item, together with the relevant background documentation.

12. At the 8th meeting of the Committee, on 31 January 1997, the representative of Kenya and the Executive Director announced that an agreement had been signed that morning between the Government of Kenya and UNEP concerning the implementation of the Mercure project in Kenya. The Chairman congratulated the Government of Kenya and the secretariat on their achievement. The representative of the United Kingdom welcomed this achievement and introduced the Chairman of the Governing Board of Mercure to the Committee, who made a statement on behalf of the six Mercure donors.

13. At the Council's 6th plenary meeting, on 6 February 1997, the President invited representatives to announce their pledges for the current biennium and the biennium 1998-1999.

14. The representative of India announced that the pledge of $100,000 already made for 1997 would be paid and expressed India's hope that it would be able to pay $180,000 for 1998 and for 1999, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessments.

15. The representative of Mauritania indicated that Mauritania would contribute for the first time, pledging $6,000 per annum for 1997, 1998 and 1999, as well as a sum of $2,000 to the General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

16. The representative of Indonesia pledged $15,000 for 1997.

17. The representative of Kuwait said that his country was committed to pay in 1996 and 1997.

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18. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that UNEP needed a stable donor base but that there was a loss of donor confidence in the organization. He added that UNEP should be supported at the level of other United Nations offices providing similar services throughout the world. In addition, he presented a draft decision relating to the exploration of ways and means of acquiring a stable, adequate and more predictable funding formula for the organization.

19. Speaking on behalf of the Netherlands, he said that in 1995 and 1996 his country had paid an amount of 700,000 guilders in addition to its contribution of 3.3 million guilders, or approximately $2.3 million, making a total of 4 million guilders. It had decided to institutionalize that percentage increase and would pay 4 million guilders in 1997.

20. The representative of Switzerland welcomed the proposal of the European Union and said that Switzerland would maintain its level for 1997 of 3.775 million Swiss francs and would pay before the end of February. Its contribution for 1998 would remain the same and it hoped to contribute the same amount for 1999.

21. The representative of Benin said that his country had paid all its contributions for the years 1990 to 1996, totalling $16,000, and would pay $5,000 per year for 1997, 1998 and 1999.

22. The representative of Mozambique said that his country would pay $10,000 for 1997, 1998 and 1999.

23. The representative of Sweden supported the European Union statement and announced that Sweden would pay 20 million kronor, approximately $3 million, for 1997 and would strive to keep the same level of payments in 1998.

24. The representative of China pledged $168,000 for 1997, of which $60,000 would be in convertible currency, and said that China would make an effort to increase the amount in the future. China would pay $220,000 to trust funds in 1997.

25. The representative of Japan pledged $5 million in 1997 and added that future payment depended upon reforms within UNEP.

26. The representative of Canada pledged 1,025,000 Canadian dollars for 1997 and 925,000 Canadian dollars for 1998 and 1999.

27. The representative of Pakistan pledged $50,000 for 1997 and said that Pakistan hoped to contribute more if the situation improved.

28. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland pledged 4.5 million pounds sterling for 1997, which it would attempt to pay early in the year.

29. The representative of Denmark indicated a general pledging level of $2.2 million which, it was hoped, would be increased in the future to encourage other donors to do likewise.

30. The representative of the Republic of Korea said that the contributions of the Republic of Korea had increased over the past three to five years and announced its pledge of $150,000 for 1997, 1998 and 1999. In addition, it had contributed $100,000 for 1995-1996 and $100,000 for 1997 to the General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, as well as $140,000 to a technical cooperation trust fund.

31. The representative of the United States of America said that the United States of America never earmarked contributions but that it had an interest in increasing its level for 1997 by several million dollars, subject to changes in the management of UNEP.

32. The representative of Austria, after indicating support for the European Union statement, announced a pledging level of $500,000 to the Environment Fund, which had already been paid for 1997. Austria would continue at the 1997 level in 1998 and would strive to do the same for 1999. Over the past few years, Austria had paid $4 million to various environmental funds and bodies.

33. The representative of South Africa said that his country would continue to support UNEP and, for 1997, would pay $40,000, twice the amount it had paid in 1996.

34. The representative of Finland reported that his country would maintain the same high level of 17 million markkaa, approximately $3.8 million, as in recent years, and welcomed the broadening of the funding base of UNEP.

35. The representative of Myanmar made a first-time pledge of $2,000 to the Environment Fund.

36. The representative of Brazil indicated a pledge of $99,000 for 1996 and the $120,000 for 1997; his country would attempt to maintain the same level in 1998-1999 and to pay the amounts early in the year in question.

37. The representative of Germany said that Germany's 1997 contribution of 9.6 million deutsche mark was currently being deposited in the UNEP accounts and that it hoped to maintain current levels, provided that UNEP gained in credibility.

38. The representative of Viet Nam indicated a first-time pledge by Viet Nam of $2,000 per annum for 1997 and similar amounts in 1998 and 1999.

39. The representative of New Zealand indicated that its parliamentary budget process did not permit it to pledge at present but that he was advocating an amount of 136,000 New Zealand dollars.

40. The representative of Guinea pledged $2,000 for 1997 and $3,000 for 1998.

41. The representative of Poland pledged $100,000 for 1997 and hoped to increase that annual amount in 1998-1999.

42. The representative of Norway said that Norway had already paid for 1997 and wished to continue its support while making additional contributions of some $600,000 to the development of the PIC, POPs and other conventions.

43. The representative of Kenya pledged $40,000 for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999, all being paid by September of the year in question, in addition to the $32,000 it had paid in 1996.

44. The representative of Nepal pledged $2,000 for 1997.

45. The representative of Australia pledged 1,020,000 Australian dollars for 1997, to be paid in the first quarter of 1997. He said that the adequacy of the responses to the management challenge would be taken into consideration in determining Australia's future contributions to the Environment Fund. At the current point in Australia's budget cycle, it was not possible to indicate what its future contributions would be.

46. The representative of the Czech Republic reconfirmed a pledge of 3 million koruny, or approximately $120,000, for 1997, 1998 and 1999.

47. The representative of Burundi pledged an amount of $4,000 for 1997.

48. The representative of Ghana pledged $10,000 for 1997.

49. The representative of Botswana pledged $7,000 for 1997.

50. The representative of the Russian Federation said that his country would pursue efforts to maintain the same levels for 1998 and 1999.

51. The representative of Thailand pledged to maintain the current level of $10,000 for 1997.

52. The representative of Burkina Faso said that his country would pursue efforts to pay a minimum of $5,000 per year, for 1996, 1997 and future years.

53. The representative of Zimbabwe pledged $18,200 for 1997.

54. The representative of Mexico pledged $60,000 for 1997 and $100,000 for 1998 and 1999.

55. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago pledged $10,000 for the period 1997-1999.

56. The representative of Philippines pledged $15,000 for 1997 and $20,000 for the period 1998-1999.

57. The representative of Swaziland pledged $6,000 for 1997.

58. The representative of Sri Lanka pledged $5,000 for 1997.

59. The representative of Panama said that Panama had already paid its contribution of $4,000 for 1997, and would endeavour to increase the amount of future contributions.

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60. In addition, at the 10th plenary meeting of the Council, on 4 April 1997, the representative of Turkey announced that his Government's contribution to the Environment Fund would be increased from $15,000 to $100,000, beginning in 1998, subject to parliamentary approval.

Action by the Council

61. On the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Council, at its 8th meeting, on 7 February 1997, adopted the following decisions under this item: decisions 19/23 to 19/29 A, 19/30 and 19/31. At the same meeting, the Council adopted decision 19/22, on the Environment Fund budgets, on the basis of a draft prepared by a working group on budgetary matters that had been established for that purpose. In addition, the Council, at its 10th meeting, 4 April 1997, also adopted decision 19/29 B under this item. The text of those decisions is contained in annex I to the present proceedings and the process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II above.

VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

1. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 7 February 1997, the Governing Council took up its consideration of agenda item 8 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Council). It had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the twentieth regular session of the Council, together with a draft provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.19/L.67/Rev.1).

2. It was agreed that the twentieth session would be held at Nairobi from 17 to 28 May 1999.

3. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, the Council decided, in the light of paragraph 14 of its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997, that its twentieth session would be of five days duration, from 24 to 28 May 1999. The draft provisional agenda was approved without amendment.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

1. No matters were raised when this agenda item was taken up by the Council at its 8th meeting, on 7 February 1997.

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IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

1. The present proceedings were adopted at the 8th meeting of the session, on 7 February 1997, on the basis of the draft proceedings circulated as document UNEP/GC.19/L.25 and Add. 1 and 2, and the report of the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.19/L.70). The report of the Committee of the Whole had been adopted by the Committee at its 14th meeting, on 6 February, on the basis of the draft report circulated as document UNEP/GC.19/CW/L.1 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

2. Also at its 14th meeting, the Committee of the Whole adopted summaries by the Chairman of the views expressed in the Committee during its consideration of agenda items 4 (d) and 5 (UNEP/GC.19/CW/L.2 and 3). The Chairman's summaries are reproduced in annex III below.

X. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

1. At the 10th meeting, on 4 April 1997, closing statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Algeria (for the Group of 77 and China), Argentina (for the Latin America and Caribbean Group), Australia (for the Asian Group), Bangladesh, Belgium (for the Western Europe and other Group), Canada, China, Kenya, the Netherlands (for the European Union), the Russian Federation (for the Eastern European Group), Sudan and Uganda (for the African Group).

2. Following the closing remarks by the Executive Director, the President reviewed the work of the current session of the Governing Council and expressed his satisfaction with its positive results. After the customary exchange of courtesies, he declared the nineteenth session of the Governing Council closed at 11:45 p.m. on 4 April 1997.

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Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
19/1	Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme	7 February 1997	52
19/2	Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997	7 February 1997	55
19/3	Report on the Global Environment Outlook	7 February 1997	57
19/4	Global assessment	7 February 1997	59
19/5	Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention	7 February 1997	59
19/6	Globalization and the environment: emerging issues on the environment and trade agenda	7 February 1997	60
19/7	The United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development	7 February 1997	61
19/8	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories	7 February 1997	62
19/9	Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations		63
	A. Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group	7 February 1997	63
	B. United Nations system-wide strategy in the field of the environment for the period 1998-2002	7 February 1997	63
	C. Coordination of convention secretariats	7 February 1997	64

	D. Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	7 February 1997	66
	E. Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies	7 February 1997	66
19/10	Progress report on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations system	7 February 1997	67
19/11	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme	7 February 1997	67
19/12	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility	7 February 1997	68
19/13	Chemicals management		68
	A. Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade	7 February 1997	68
	B. Further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals	7 February 1997	70
	C. International action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument	7 February 1997	71
	D. Enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals	7 February 1997	77

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19/14	Water management		79
	A. Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	7 February 1997	83
	B. Institutional arrangements for implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	7 February 1997	80
	C. Oceans management	7 February 1997	82
	D. Freshwater	7 February 1997	83
	E. Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific	7 February 1997	83
19/15	International Coral Reef Initiative	7 February 1997	83
19/16	Biosafety	7 February 1997	85
19/17	The efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme toward the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1995-1996	7 February 1997	88
19/18	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	7 February 1997	90
19/19	Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation	7 February 1997	91
19/20	Mid-term review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development	7 February 1997	92
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19/1. Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

1. Adopts the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/ as annexed to the present decision;

2. Requests the Executive Director to transmit this Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be considered in the ongoing reform process of the United Nations system;

3. Also requests the President of the Governing Council to present this Declaration to the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the General Assembly at its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the reform process as it relates to the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as on the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, to the next session of the Governing Council.

7th meeting
7 February 1997

Annex

NAIROBI DECLARATION ON THE ROLE AND MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

We, the ministers and heads of delegation attending the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 27 January to 7 February 1997,

Recalling the goal of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 2/ which is to establish a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors of society and people,

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Ibid., annex I.

Reiterating our commitment to the implementation of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 3/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as other environmental conventions agreed upon in the Rio process,

Recognizing the progress made in the implementation of the Rio agreements,

Deeply concerned, nevertheless, at the continuing deterioration of the global environment, including the worsening trends in environmental pollution and the degradation of natural resources, as reflected in the Global Environment Outlook report of the United Nations Environment Programme, 4/

Aware of the rapid changes currently taking place in the world and the increasing complexity and fragmentation of the institutional responses to them, as well as the far-reaching significance of the concept of sustainable development which encompasses economic, social and environmental dimensions, supported by capacity-building, transfer of technology and financial resources to developing countries, in particular least developed countries,

Convinced that a strong, effective and revitalized United Nations Environment Programme is essential to assist the international community in its efforts to reverse environmentally unsustainable trends,

Aware that the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 offers a unique opportunity to review and appraise the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to confirm the revitalized role of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Determined to assist the General Assembly in this important task, and guided by the principles agreed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Declare:

1. That the United Nations Environment Programme has been and should continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment and that we, the ministers of the environment and heads of delegation attending the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, are determined to play a stronger role in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. That the role of the United Nations Environment Programme is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the

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3/ Ibid., annex III.

4/ United Nations Environment Programme, Global Environment Outlook, (United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1997).

environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

3. That to this end, we reaffirm the continuing relevance of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme deriving from General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and further elaborated by Agenda 21. The core elements of the focused mandate of the revitalized United Nations Environment Programme should be the following:

(a) To analyse the state of the global environment and assess global and regional environmental trends, provide policy advice, early warning information on environmental threats, and to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action, based on the best scientific and technical capabilities available;

(b) To further the development of its international environmental law aiming at sustainable development, including the development of coherent interlinkages among existing international environmental conventions;

(c) To advance the implementation of agreed international norms and policies, to monitor and foster compliance with environmental principles and international agreements and stimulate cooperative action to respond to emerging environmental challenges;

(d) To strengthen its role in the coordination of environmental activities in the United Nations system in the field of the environment, as well as its role as an Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility, based on its comparative advantage and scientific and technical expertise;

(e) To promote greater awareness and facilitate effective cooperation among all sectors of society and actors involved in the implementation of the international environmental agenda, and to serve as an effective link between the scientific community and policy makers at the national and international levels;

(f) To provide policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building to Governments and other relevant institutions;

4. That, for the effective discharge of its focused mandate and to ensure the implementation of the global environmental agenda, we have decided to improve the governance structure of United Nations Environment Programme. In doing so, we have been guided by the following considerations:

(a) The United Nations Environment Programme should serve as the world forum for the ministers and the highest-level government officials in charge of environmental matters in the policy and decision-making processes of the United Nations Environment Programme;

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(b) Regionalization and decentralization should be strengthened through the increased involvement and participation of regional ministerial and other relevant forums in the United Nations Environment Programme process, complementary to the central coordinating role of the Programme's headquarters in Nairobi;

(c) The participation of major groups should be increased;

(d) A cost-effective and politically influential inter-sessional mechanism should be designed;

5. That, in order to operationalize its mandate, the revitalized United Nations Environment Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources and, in this regard, we recognize the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the competitive ability of the Programme to attract funding;

6. That ways must be sought to assure financial stability for the implementation of the global environmental agenda. In this regard, the predictability and early notification of expected contributions to the Environment Fund would facilitate an effective planning and programming process;

7. That we reaffirm the central importance of the Environment Fund as the principal source of financing for the implementation of the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

8. That we are convinced that the expeditious implementation of our decisions and the principles contained in this Declaration, adopted in the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Environment Programme, will revitalize and strengthen the organization and place it at the forefront of international efforts to protect the global environment for present and future generations and in the pursuit of sustainable development;

9. That we request the President of the Governing Council to present this Declaration to the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

19/2. Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997

The Governing Council,

Taking into account General Assembly resolutions 50/113 of 20 December 1995 and 51/181 of 16 December 1996 on the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/

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Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997; 5/ the implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Agenda 21; 6/ ensuring adequate and predictable financing of the United Nations Environment Programme: a challenge to Governments; 7/ and the Global Environment Outlook, 8/

1. Notes with appreciation the review and appraisal of the implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 2/ and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 3/ as reflected in the relevant reports of the Executive Director 9/ and in Governing Council decision 19/20 of 7 February 1997;

2. Recognizes that the institutional and financial constraints under which the United Nations Environment Programme has had to operate and the wide-ranging demands which are made on it by countries for programme delivery are making it increasingly difficult for it to meet all expectations and needs in an effective manner;

3. Recognizes further that, notwithstanding these difficulties, the organization has made a deliberate and commendable effort in programme development, management and delivery, in line with the principles of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Rio conventions, and the guidance provided by the Council;

4. Requests the Executive Director, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/181 and on behalf of the Governing Council, to submit for the consideration of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997, the meeting of its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group, to be held from 24 February to 7 March 1997, and the United Nations General Assembly at its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, to be held from 23 to 27 June 1997, the documents on the implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Agenda 21, the contribution of the Governing Council to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1997, 10/ the report on

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5/ UNEP/GC.19/30, UNEP/GC.19/INF.13 and UNEP/GC.19/32, annex.

6/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.17.

7/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.10.

8/ UNEP/GC.19/26.

9/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.17, UNEP/GC.19/30, UNEP/GC.19/INF.13 and UNEP/GC.19/32, annex.

10/ Sections A and B, paragraphs 4-19 of UNEP/GC.19/30 and UNEP/GC.19/INF.13.

the Global Environment Outlook, the observations and recommendations regarding the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s 11/ and Governing Council decision 19/20;

5. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development, and its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group, to take into account the submissions of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, as reflected in the documents referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision and Governing Council decision 19/20, in the preparation of the Commission's report on the implementation of Agenda 21 for submission to the special session of the General Assembly;

6. Also requests the Executive Director, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/181 and on behalf of the Governing Council, to bring to the attention of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session and its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group and the United Nations General Assembly at its special session in 1997 the outcome of the Council's consideration of the issues related to the review and appraisal of the implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Agenda 21;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures to follow up the actions requested of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations General Assembly at its special session;

8. Reiterates its request to the Executive Director, as contained in its decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997, to present the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme to the high-level segment of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

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19/3. Report on the Global Environment Outlook

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook, 8/

1. Notes with appreciation the timely production of the new, comprehensive report on the state of the world environment, Global Environment Outlook-1, 4/ as requested in Council decision 18/27 C of 26 May 1995, as well as the participatory assessment process (known as the Global Environment Outlook process) which has been established to support

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11/ UNEP/GC.19/32, annex.

United Nations Environment Programme assessment activities, and its components (the scientific working groups, network of collaborating centres, regional and United Nations-wide consultative mechanisms);

2. Concurs with the Executive Director's proposal to include the executive summary of the Global Environment Outlook report, together with the views of the Council thereon, as an integral part of the report of the Council to the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 and to make the full text of the report available to the General Assembly at that session;

3. Approves the continuation of the Global Environment Outlook process and the production of the biennial Global Environment Outlook reports, following the guidelines set out in decision 18/27 C, taking into consideration the recommendations pertaining to future Global Environment Outlook reports that have emerged from the Global Environment Outlook process and subject to the allocation of adequate funding;

4. Urges Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, and other institutions to participate in, and contribute to, the future activities of the Global Environment Outlook process;

5. Urges Governments and the Executive Director to take into account the findings and recommendations of Global Environment Outlook-1 in the development and implementation of their environmental assessment, management actions and programmes;

6. Urges major report producers to collaborate and use a common data and knowledge base, comprising indicators, models, scenarios and expert systems, in order to avoid duplication, save cost and ensure that global reports are mutually supportive. Each agency would thus approach sustainable development from its particular perspective, while taking advantage of the information in the other reports to get a complete picture of sustainable development;

7. Requests the Executive Director to submit the next report in the Global Environment Outlook series (Global Environment Outlook-2) for the consideration of the Governing Council at its twentieth regular session;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to consult with interested Governments on the framework for future Global Environment Outlook reports and to improve the consultative process for the preparation of the reports;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to include in the next report important data gaps that cannot be filled from existing sources including collaborating centres of environmental assessment excellence.

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7 February 1997

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19/4. Global assessment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook 8/ and on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1996-1997 and proposals for 1998-1999 and, in particular, the prospects for subprogramme element 5.1 in 1997, 12/

Recalling that Governments have given high priority to the assessment function of the United Nations Environment Programme and that this function covers all areas of the work programme,

1. Requests the Executive Director to improve the use of the GEMS/Air and GEMS/Water programmes and the Global Resource Information Database in the preparation of the Global Environment Outlook assessments;

2. Urges the Executive Director endeavour to secure adequate funds for the 1997 and 1998-1999 budgets to the Global Environment Monitoring System programme and the Global Resource Information Database.

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19/5. Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 1/ specifically recommended for its attention; 13/

2. Takes into account the gap between the present level of resources being provided to the United Nations Environment Programme and the levels that this report has calculated for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully all elements of Agenda 21 that have been recommended for its attention by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

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7 February 1997

12/ UNEP/GC.19/22, part three, paras. 79-80.

13/ UNEP/GC.19/20.

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19/6. Globalization and the environment: emerging issues on the environment and trade agenda

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on globalization and the environment: emerging issues on the environment and trade agenda, 14/

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the role the United Nations Environment Programme has played in clarifying the relationship and in increasing the dialogue between the environment and trade communities, as well as in strengthening the capacity, especially of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to participate actively in the debate;

2. *Notes also with satisfaction* the initiatives of Governments, United Nations and intergovernmental organizations, industry and business associations and non-governmental organizations in supporting and promoting a synergy between, and the mutual supportiveness of, trade polices and environmental protection;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen efforts to develop mutually supportive trade and environment policies, with particular attention to the needs and requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

4. *Invites* Governments to consider measures and mechanisms to facilitate transparency within the trade-related organizations and decision-making bodies, and facilitate contributions by major groups to those organizations and bodies;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue:

(a) To promote and support efforts to clarify and assess the environmental effects of trade and trade policies, as well as the effects of environmental policies on trade;

(b) To contribute to and support international efforts to promote a synergy between environment and trade objectives in policy development and implementation;

(c) To cooperate actively with other international organizations dealing with the relationship between the environment and trade, in particular the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(d) To contribute to international efforts to promote and facilitate environmentally responsible investments.

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14/ UNEP/GC.19/27.

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19/7. The United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 17/4 of 21 May 1993 and 18/6 of 26 May 1995 on the United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development,

Welcoming with appreciation the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference of Women, which met from 4 to 15 September 1995, 15/ in particular the chapters on women and the environment and women in power and decision-making, 16/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995, relating to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at the national, regional and international levels,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development; 17/

2. Endorses the policy framework document Gender and the Environment: A UNEP Perspective and other activities of the United Nations Environment Programme undertaken in support of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

3. Regrets that the United Nations Environment Programme has not been able to respond fully to all the recommendations in Governing Council decisions 17/4 and 18/6;

4. Stresses the importance of further strengthening efforts at mainstreaming the gender perspective into all activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, including through the development of accountability mechanisms;

5. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to improve its collection, dissemination and use of gender-disaggregated data related to women and the environment to ensure the integration of gender considerations in the development and implementation of its policies and programmes;

6. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct gender-based analysis in order to assess the impact of environmental policies on women and to ensure the development and implementation of policies and programmes that effectively meet and reflect the needs and concerns of women;

7. Urges the Executive Director to continue to implement fully the ten specific commitments to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by the year 2000, given by her at the Fourth World Conference on Women;

15/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, annexes I and II.

16/ Ibid., annex II, chap. IV, sections G and K.

17/ UNEP/GC.19/9.

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8. Requests the Executive Director to report on the issue of women in environment and development to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at its session to be held from 10 to 21 March 1997, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its session to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997, and to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/8. The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly principle 23 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 2/

Taking note of the Executive Director's report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, 18/

1. Welcomes the recent positive developments in the peace process, including the interim agreement concluded between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and notes the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme has undertaken within the framework of the Middle East Peace Process, and requests the Executive Director to intensify such support;

2. Expresses its appreciation of the assistance provided by some donor countries in the field of water-resources management and the establishment of an environmental database for Gaza and the West Bank;

3. Expresses its concern over the continued degradation of the environmental conditions in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those in the Palestinian Authority, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to take a prominent role in the activities of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories in order to ensure that environmental concerns are given due priority in all the cooperative programmes under the jurisdiction of his office;

4. Notes with concern that the Executive Director was unable to update the report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories in keeping with Governing Council decisions 17/31 of 21 May 1993 and 18/11 of 26 May 1995, and requests her to complete the updating of the said report as soon as possible;

18/ UNEP/GC.19/13.

/...

5. Requests the Executive Director to note and implement Governing Council decision 17/31, in which she was requested to provide technical assistance in Palestinian institutional and self-capacity-building in the field of the environment, including training in the relevant necessary fields, in close coordination with the United Nations Office of the Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, multilateral financial institutions and donor countries;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/9. Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations

A. Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group; 19/

2. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twentieth session on the progress made in the work of the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group, including the further refinement and focusing of its role and functioning, while taking into account recommendations of the General Assembly at its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, to be held from 23 to 27 June 1997.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

B. United Nations system-wide strategy in the field of the environment for the period 1998-2002

The Governing Council,

Having considered the note by the Executive Director on the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment, 20/

19/ UNEP/GC.19/17.

20/ UNEP/GC.19/19.

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Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided that the Governing Council would, *inter alia*, promote international cooperation and provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its decision 18/13 of 26 May 1995, in which the Council endorsed the assessment of the Executive Director that there is a need for a strategy document and recommended that such a document be prepared to provide for a mechanism to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge its policy guidance and coordination mandate within the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the note of the Executive Director on the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment, which provides a clear rationale for the finalization of the strategy;

2. *Recognizes* the need for the further development of the strategy in accordance with the decision to be taken by the 1997 special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21;

3. *Endorses* the view of the Executive Director that the strategy should have a flexible structure over the medium term and should allow for regular updating in view of the developments taking place in intergovernmental forums in the course of the life of the strategy;

4. *Emphasizes* that the strategy document should provide a clear framework for the discharge of the policy guidance and coordination role of the Governing Council, as well as a framework for future collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant organizations of the United Nations system;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to undertake the further development of the strategy through the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group, following the conclusion of the special session of the General Assembly, and to provide the finalized document to the Council at its twentieth session.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

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C. Coordination of convention secretariats

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the coordination of convention secretariats 21/ and the report of the Sixth Meeting on Coordination of Secretariats of Environmental Conventions, 22/

1. *Recalls* the tasks assigned to the United Nations Environment Programme by chapter 38, paragraph 22 (h), of Agenda 21;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of the Programme's role in promoting and supporting cooperation and coordination with and amongst environmental agreements and their secretariats;

3. *Welcomes* the actions undertaken by the Executive Director to facilitate the working relationships with and amongst the secretariats;

4. *Requests* the conferences of parties of the relevant conventions to encourage their respective convention secretariats to engage and continue to participate actively in the coordination process;

5. *Acknowledges* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme and the convention secretariats to have the resources necessary to maintain an adequate level of coordination and cooperation;

6. *Urges* the Executive Director to continue to promote synergy amongst the work and activities of relevant environmental agreements and their secretariats and with the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director and the secretariat of each convention for which the United Nations Environment Programme is responsible to enter into an arrangement which clarifies their respective roles and responsibilities. The arrangement should define the procedures through which the Executive Director exercises control or supervision as well as the financial and administrative functions which are exercised by the chief executive officers of the relevant secretariats, with a view to improving efficiency and effectiveness;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twentieth session on the steps taken to implement the present decision.

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21/ UNEP/GC.19/11.

22/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.27.

D. Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 23/

Noting the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, concluded at Istanbul in June 1996, 24/

Recalling its decision 18/15 of 26 May 1995 and resolution 15/8 of 1 May 1995 of the Commission on Human Settlements,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in particular the inter-agency Sustainable Cities Programme, which has facilitated the building of effective partnerships between cities and several United Nations bodies to improve the urban environment;

2. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to enter into collaborative arrangements in order to facilitate the implementation of the environmental components of the Habitat Agenda, especially at the local level.

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7 February 1997

E. Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on progress in implementing Governing Council decision 18/19 of 26 May 1995 on improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies; 25/

2. Expresses its satisfaction with the continued collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs in enhancing the ability of the United Nations to respond to environmental emergencies;

23/ UNEP/GC.19/8.

24/ A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

25/ UNEP/GC.19/14.

3. Invites Governments and relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue to cooperate with the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Department of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, facing environmental emergencies;

4. Requests the Joint Unit to develop further its activities in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies;

5. Urges Governments and international organizations that are in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies.

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7 February 1997

19/10. Progress report on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations system

The Governing Council

1. Takes note with appreciation of the progress report of the Executive Director on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations system; 26/

2. Encourages the Executive Director to continue her initiatives in this area and requests her to communicate with the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to urge the adoption of good environmental housekeeping practices throughout the United Nations system.

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19/11. Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme 27/ and the actions indicated therein.

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26/ UNEP/GC.19/28.

27/ UNEP/GC.19/2 and Add.1 and Corr.1.

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19/12. Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility, 28/

1. *Urges* the Executive Director to take such additional actions as are deemed necessary to strengthen further the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its designated role in the Global Environment Facility;

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the Governing Council to strengthen the involvement of the United Nations Environment Programme in the design and implementation of Global Environment Facility programmes and projects;

3. *Urges* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen the linkages between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility.

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7 February 1997

19/13. Chemicals management

A. Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 1 of its decision 18/12 of 26 May 1995 on the development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure in international trade, and the consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals, by which it authorized the Executive Director to prepare for and convene, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with Governments and other relevant international organizations, within available resources, an intergovernmental negotiating committee, with a mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade,

Also recalling paragraph 3 of the same decision by which it decided that, at its nineteenth session, the Governing Council, taking into account the recommendations from the government-designated group of experts, should give consideration to the need to develop further measures, within or beyond the prior informed consent procedure, to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, including the possibility that the mandate of

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28/ UNEP/GC.19/16.

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the intergovernmental negotiating committee for the legally binding prior informed consent procedure be extended to provide a basis for development of such measures,

Aware of the concerns of the international community as regards the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals, including pesticides, as reflected in chapter 19 of Agenda 21, 1/

Recalling the objective set in Agenda 21, chapter 19, paragraph 19.38 (b), namely, to achieve by the year 2000, if possible, full participation in and implementation of the prior informed consent procedure, including possible mandatory applications through legally binding instruments contained in the Amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade and in the International Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, taking into account the experience gained within the prior informed consent procedure,

Having considered the Executive Director's progress report on the development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and the consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals, 29/

Taking note with appreciation of the progress made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade at its first and second sessions, 30/ the work done by the Government-designated Group of Experts on Further Measures to Reduce the Risks from a Limited Number of Hazardous Chemicals 31/ and by the Joint Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

1. *Confirms* the present mandate of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee as given by the Governing Council in paragraph 1 of its decision 18/12;

2. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to continue its work on the international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade, with an aim to conclude negotiations in 1997;

29/ UNEP/GC.19/24.

30/ See UNEP/FAO/PIC/INC.1/10, UNEP/FAO/PIC/INC.2/7 and UNEP/GC.19/24, chap. I.

31/ See UNEP/PIC/EG/1/3 (also circulated to the Governing Council under cover of a note by the Executive Director as information document UNEP/GC.19/INF.7).

3. Recognizes that additional elements relating to the prior informed consent procedure are under consideration in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

4. Requests the Executive Director to convene, in 1997, together with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting and signing an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade;

5. Calls upon Governments that are in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial and technical resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in particular the full and effective participation of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition that may be interested.

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B. Further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 2 of its decision 18/12 of May 1995, by which it invited the Executive Director to convene, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a government-designated group of experts, to consider and recommend what further measures were needed to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, either within or beyond the scope of the existing prior informed consent procedure, and requested the Executive Director to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session,

Also recalling paragraph 3 of the same decision, by which it decided that at its nineteenth session, the Governing Council, taking into account the recommendations of the government-designated group of experts, should give consideration to the need to develop further measures, within or beyond the prior informed consent procedure, to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, including the possibility that the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee for the legally binding prior informed consent procedure be extended to provide a basis for development of such measures,

Aware of the concerns of the international community with regard to the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including the prevention of illegal international traffic of hazardous chemicals, including pesticides, as reflected in chapter 19 of Agenda 21, 1/

1. Welcomes and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Government-designated Group of Experts on Further Measures to Reduce the Risks from a Limited Number of Hazardous Chemicals 31/ concerning:

(a) Unwanted stocks of pesticides and other chemicals;

(b) Capacity-building;

(c) Inadequate information;

2. Notes the Group's recommendations concerning issues related to risk reduction from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, including possible bans or phase-outs; 31/

3. Invites Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, as addressees of specific recommendations, to review the report of the Group of Experts and its annexes and consider taking action, as appropriate, to implement them and to report on such action to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

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C. International action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/32 of 25 May 1995, on persistent organic pollutants, and chapters 17 and 19 of the Agenda 21, as well as the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, especially principle 15 regarding the application of the precautionary approach in environmental protection,

Aware of the concerns of the international community as regards the risks posed by the initial list of twelve persistent organic pollutants (DDT, aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, chlordane, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, toxaphene, polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins and furans),

Noting with appreciation the assessment process carried out in the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, together with the International Programme on Chemical Safety and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, on the initial list of twelve persistent organic pollutants and the conclusions and recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,

Recalling paragraph 17 of the Washington Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, 32/ whereby Governments committed themselves to:

32/ UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/6, annex II.

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> "Acting to develop, in accordance with the provisions of the Global Programme of Action, a global, legally binding instrument for the reduction and/or elimination of emissions, discharges and, where appropriate, the elimination of the manufacture and use of the persistent organic pollutants identified in decision 18/32 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme. The nature of the obligations undertaken must be developed recognizing the special circumstances of countries in need of assistance. Particular attention should be devoted to the potential need for the continued use of certain persistent organic pollutants to safeguard human health, sustain food production and to alleviate poverty in the absence of alternatives and the difficulty of acquiring substitutes and transferring of technology for the development and/or production of those substitutes,"

Noting that many of the persistent organic pollutants identified in Governing Council decision 18/32 are currently subject to the voluntary prior informed consent procedure as laid down in the Amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade and the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Recalling that, in its decision 18/12 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and invited it to take into account the parallel activities on persistent organic pollutants,

Considering that the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of chemicals should be carried out in a coordinated manner to ensure that the international instruments being developed in this field are fully coherent and complementary,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the recommendations by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety for international action on persistent organic pollutants to protect human health and the environment, 33/

1. Welcomes and endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety Ad Hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants; 34/

2. Concludes that international action, including a global legally binding instrument, is required to reduce the risks to human health and the environment arising from the release of the twelve specified persistent organic pollutants;

33/ UNEP/GC.19/23.

34/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.8, annex.

3. Concludes that action programmes must take into account that the twelve specified persistent organic pollutants include pesticides, industrial chemicals, and unintentionally produced by-products and contaminants, and that, in the framework of overarching objectives to be negotiated by an intergovernmental negotiating committee, different approaches are needed for each category of persistent organic pollutants;

4. Decides that immediate international action should be initiated to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate (as further elaborated in the annex to the present decision) the emissions and discharges of the twelve persistent organic pollutants specified in Governing Council decision 18/32 and, where appropriate, eliminate production and subsequently the remaining use of those persistent organic pollutants that are intentionally produced;

5. Recognizes that, in order to protect human health and the environment, international action should include:

(a) Use of separate, differentiated approaches to take action on pesticides, industrial chemicals, and unintentionally produced by-products and contaminants;

(b) Use of transition periods, with phased implementation for various proposed actions;

(c) Careful and efficient management of existing stocks of the specified persistent organic pollutants and, where necessary and feasible, their elimination;

(d) Training in enforcement and monitoring of use to discourage the misuse of persistent organic pollutant pesticides;

(e) Remediation of contaminated sites and environmental reservoirs, where feasible and practicable, taking into account national and regional considerations in the light of the global significance of the problem;

6. Recognizes that international action should incorporate such practical measures as:

(a) The expeditious development of a global, legally binding instrument. The instrument should be developed in such a manner as to recognize ongoing activities on persistent organic pollutants and other related issues and institutions, as well as differing regional and national conditions and taking into account the special concerns of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(b) Voluntary measures, which may be implemented as a complement to, or independently of, a legally binding instrument;

(c) Coordination among different regional and international initiatives on persistent organic pollutants to ensure harmonized environmental and health outcomes from mutually supportive and effective programmes that result

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in the development of policies with complementary, and non-conflicting, objectives and that avoid overlap and duplication with other international and regional conventions and programmes;

(d) Input of scientific, technical and economic expertise and consideration of the ability of existing institutions and organizations to provide this input;

7. Decides that socio-economic factors should be addressed in developing and implementing international action, including:

(a) Possible impacts on food production;

(b) Possible impacts on human health (for example, for vector control agents);

(c) Need for capacity-building in countries and regions;

(d) Financing concerns and opportunities;

(e) Possible trade impacts;

8. Requests the Executive Director to prepare for and convene, together with the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations, an intergovernmental negotiating committee, with a mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action initially beginning with the twelve specified persistent organic pollutants and to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety. Participation in the intergovernmental negotiating committee should be open to Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations consistent with applicable United Nations rules;

9. Notes the need to develop science-based criteria and a procedure for identifying additional persistent organic pollutants as candidates for future international action and requests the intergovernmental negotiating committee to establish, at its first meeting, an expert group to carry out this work. The group should work expeditiously, proceeding concurrently with the intergovernmental negotiating committee process, to develop criteria for consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee in the negotiation of a legally binding instrument. The process should incorporate criteria pertaining to persistence, bioaccumulation, toxicity and exposure in different regions and should take into account the potential for regional and global transport including dispersion mechanisms for the atmosphere and the hydrosphere, migratory species and the need to reflect possible influences of marine transport and tropical climates;

10. Recommends that during the development of a global legally-binding instrument, due consideration be given to the work currently under way within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to develop a regional protocol on persistent organic pollutants under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

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11. Requests that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee commence its work by early 1998;

12. Requests the Executive Director to convene a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting and signing an international legally binding instrument for international action to reduce/eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants to be concluded preferably by the year 2000;

13. Requests the Executive Director, in collaboration with other international and regional organizations, to initiate immediate action, subject to available resources, on the recommendations in the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants:

(a) For the development and sharing of information on the twelve specified persistent organic pollutants, including:

(i) Comprehensive reporting and information exchange, within and between countries and intergovernmental organizations;

(ii) Improved access to national information on persistent organic pollutants, as well as improved access to information by all countries, especially developing nations;

(iii) Improved access for developing nations to existing and future information on persistent organic pollutants issues by maintaining the United Nations Environment Programme clearing-house for information on persistent organic pollutants, including the electronic database on the Internet;

(b) To establish practical measures to evaluate and monitor the success of any implemented strategies, where appropriate;

(c) To improve the availability of information and expertise on alternatives to persistent organic pollutants through information exchange and education programmes to enable Governments to make their own decisions on replacing persistent organic pollutants with alternatives;

(d) To develop guidance on the selection of replacements for persistent organic pollutant pesticides;

(e) To assist countries in the identification of where polychlorinated biphenyls are found and in developing inventories of polychlorinated biphenyls in use, stockpiles of polychlorinated biphenyls and waste containing polychlorinated biphenyls by providing guidance materials, promoting the exchange of information among countries, and providing training, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

(f) In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, to develop an inventory of available destruction capacity for polychlorinated biphenyls world-wide;

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(g) To develop, in coordination with appropriate international organizations, in particular the Secretariat for the Basel Convention and members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in close consultation with the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and national Governments, a check list or simple guidelines on how to identify polychlorinated-biphenyl-containing materials that would be useful for countries who have not yet made such an identification, especially developing countries or countries with economies in transition;

(h) To assist countries in the identification of national sources of dioxin/furan releases by promoting access to the information on available sources of dioxins/furans;

(i) To undertake cooperative programmes, particularly of a regional nature, on aspects of dioxin/furan management between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in coordination with activities of the organizations members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

14. Urges Governments, in collaboration with international and regional organizations, to initiate action on the recommendations in the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety;

15. Concludes that the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee and subsequent negotiation of a global legally binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants should be considered a priority action of the United Nations Environment Programme;

16. Requests the Executive Director, in coordination with appropriate intergovernmental organizations and Governments, to ensure that adequate financing is provided to support the intergovernmental negotiating committee and to implement the action items identified in paragraph 13 of the present decision;

17. Calls upon Governments and other actors that are in a position to do so to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with the necessary financial and technical resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, in particular the full and effective participation of developing countries, especially least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition which may be interested;

18. Calls also upon Governments and other actors that are in a position to do so to make available the technical assistance, capacity-building, and funding to enable developing countries, especially least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition which may be interested, to take appropriate action on persistent organic pollutants.

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Annex

For the listed POP pesticides and industrial chemicals that are or have been intentionally produced: other than for the small number of remaining recognized uses, these POPs pose unreasonable and otherwise unmanageable risks to human health and the environment such that:

(a) For the listed POP pesticides, measures should be taken to rapidly phase out remaining production and subsequent remaining use as alternatives are made available for the small number of remaining recognized uses; and

(b) For the listed POP industrial chemicals there is a need to phase out, over time, polychlorinated biphenyls and hexachlorobenzene on a global scale and, in the transition to complete elimination of use, there is a need for managing remaining use, storage and disposal.

For POPs that are generated as unwanted by-products, currently available measures that can achieve a realistic and meaningful level of release reduction and/or source elimination should be pursued expeditiously, and this should be done by actions that are feasible and practical and additional measures should be explored and implemented.

Realistic action should be taken to destroy obsolete stocks of the listed POPs and remediate environmental reservoirs. Manufacturers and exporting and importing countries should work together to solve the problem on a priority basis, taking into account the following considerations:

(a) Destruction technologies are available that may be appropriate and practical in some cases;

(b) In many regions, particularly in the developing countries, society still lacks appropriate and adequate destruction facilities and the costs associated with providing them may be greater than what the region can afford without technical and other assistance;

(c) In many cases, full remediation of environmental reservoirs may not be technically or economically feasible or practical; and

(d) Better information on the amount of obsolete stocks is required.

D. Enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals

The Governing Council,

Desiring to enhance the effectiveness of international, regional, and national approaches to chemicals management,

Noting the ongoing development of a legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure through the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Governing Council decision 19/13 C of 7 February 1997

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establishing an intergovernmental negotiating committee for a global instrument to address persistent organic pollutants through the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting also various activities undertaken to implement chapter 19 of Agenda 21, 1/ including decisions of the Governing Council at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions and those adopted at the sessions of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, as well as other relevant forums,

Convinced of the need to ensure that these instruments and activities, as well as possible future instruments or activities relating to chemicals management, should be undertaken in a manner that ensures efficiency and coherence,

Recognizing that coherence can potentially be achieved through a variety of legal or administrative approaches, the relative merits of which need to be explored,

Further recognizing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as task manager for chapter 19 of Agenda 21, on the sound management of chemicals, and the role of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in promoting the development of strategies for the implementation of chapter 19,

Mindful of the fact that chemicals management activities span several sectors, involve a number of stakeholders and are undertaken in a number of intergovernmental organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,

Mindful also that the top priority with respect to international instruments in the chemicals field is to conclude agreements on prior informed consent and persistent organic pollutants,

1. Invites the Executive Director, in close collaboration with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, to develop a report outlining options for enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals, including the instrument on the prior informed consent procedure under development and a likely future agreement on persistent organic pollutants. The report should:

(a) Outline options of both a legal and administrative nature;

(b) Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of these options in relation to environmental benefits, administrative and organizational aspects including costs and effectiveness;

(c) Outline the roles and responsibilities of current legal instruments and organizations with responsibilities for chemicals;

(d) Take into account the capabilities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

2. Invites the Executive Director to submit the report to the Governing Council for consideration at its twentieth session and to forward the report to the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety for its consideration.

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19/14. Water management

A. Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director [35] on the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, [36] as well as the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the implementation of the Programme, [37]

1. Takes note of General Assembly resolution 51/189 of 16 December 1996 on institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

2. Endorses the proposed role for the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action;

3. Takes note of the important linkages between the freshwater and marine environments in applying the Global Programme of Action;

4. Takes note of the proposal of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme on institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; [38]

5. Accords priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme:

6. Requests the Executive Director to expand the activities of the Global Programme of Action to all regional seas programmes and to establish links with other regional plans and programmes or conventions for the protection of the marine and freshwater environment, in order to ensure their participation in the implementation of the Programme;

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[35] UNEP/GC.19/25.

[36] UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

[37] UNEP/GC.19/12.

[38] UNEP/GC.19/INF.4, annex.

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7. Requests the Executive Director to continue strengthening the integrated management of United Nations Environment Programme activities related to the freshwater and marine environment for implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

8. Requests the Executive Director to communicate with the governing bodies of the relevant organizations and programmes, recommending the formal endorsement by each competent international organization of those parts of the Global Programme of Action that are relevant to their mandates, and the according of appropriate priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the work programme of each organization;

9. Urges Governments to take appropriate action within the governing bodies of relevant organizations and programmes, requesting the formal endorsement by each competent organization of those parts of the Global Programme of Action that are relevant to their mandates, and the according of appropriate priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the work programme of each organization;

10. Requests the Executive Director to convey to the Assembly and Council of the Global Environment Facility the invitation of the Governing Council to give adequate consideration to financing of the projects that support the objectives of the Global Programme of Action;

11. Requests the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue reporting to the Governing Council at its regular sessions;

12. Invites the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in collaboration with its Subcommittee on Water, to perform the functions of a steering committee on technical cooperation and assistance for the Global Programme of Action, including activities related to the clearing-house, with representation from regional and international organizations which have primary roles and responsibilities for its implementation;

13. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twentieth session on progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action.

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B. Institutional arrangements for implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: strengthening of the regional seas programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Governing Council,

Considering the importance of the regional seas programmes in the context of implementing chapter 17 of Agenda 21 [1] and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, [36] adopted at Washington, D.C., on 3 November 1995,

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Bearing in mind that, within the framework of the 1981 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific (the "Lima Convention", concluded between Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru), the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific is being executed successfully on the basis of fruitful inter-institutional cooperation between the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Taking into account the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the "Cartagena Convention") and the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme,

Recalling decision 5 of the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana in September 1995, 39/ in which the United Nations Environment Programme was urged to support the greatest possible strengthening of the regional seas programme and, in particular, the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the Caribbean Action Plan within the budget allocated for the 1996-1997 biennium,

Considering decision 18 of the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, 40/ held in Buenos Aires in November 1996, in which the Ministers decided to exhort the United Nations Environment Programme to pay due attention to the effective strengthening of the regional action plans for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas, such as the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the Wider Caribbean Region Action Plan, in line with chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Considering also that, in the decision mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the Latin American and Caribbean Ministers for the Environment decided to urge the United Nations Environment Programme to support and give priority to the implementation and strengthening of a programme of cooperation between Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay for the Upper South-West Atlantic, focusing this support during the 1997-1998 biennium on projects and activities related directly to the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Bearing in mind that paragraph 74 (b) of the Global Programme of Action lays down that the United Nations Environment Programme, in its capacity as secretariat, should revitalize the regional seas programme to promote and facilitate implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

Emphasizing the commitment by countries to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and its close relationship with the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Considering further that the action plans being carried out in the Latin America and Caribbean region, such as the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the Wider Caribbean Region Action Plan, are taking on new and greater

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39/ See UNEP/LAC-IG.IX/4.

40/ See UNEP/LAC-IG.X/4.

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environmental challenges stemming from the Rio Conference, including the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, marine biological diversity, climate change, etc.,

1. Requests the Executive Director to pay due attention to the effective strengthening of the regional action plans for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas, such as those for the South-East Pacific and the Wider Caribbean region, by allocating appropriate funds for the 1996-1997 biennium and taking appropriate measures on the matter for the 1998-1999 biennium, as agreed by intergovernmental meetings within the legal framework of the regional conventions concluded by Governments;

2. Urges the Executive Director to provide, within available resources, support for the implementation and strengthening of a cooperation programme between Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay for the Upper South-West Atlantic, and to direct this support during the period 1997-1998 to projects and activities related directly to the Global Programme of Action for the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

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C. Oceans management

The Governing Council,

Recalling the emphasis placed on an integrated approach, at the national and regional levels, to the management of oceans and all seas by chapter 17 of Agenda 21, 1/

Emphasizing the equal importance of an integrated approach to such management at the global level,

1. Welcomes decision 4/15 of the Commission on Sustainable Development and General Assembly resolution 51/189 of 16 December 1996;

2. Invites the Executive Director, within the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and in collaboration with the other United Nations agencies and world bodies represented on the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to provide the necessary support to the Commission on Sustainable Development in carrying out the periodic review of the world's marine environment called for in decision 4/15;

3. Requests the Executive Director to consider, in cooperation with the heads of the other sponsor organizations of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, how that Group might most effectively contribute to the task.

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D. Freshwater

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the growing global concern over the status of freshwater quality and quantity at the national, regional and global levels,

Requests the Executive Director to place a higher priority on freshwater in the next biennium, and to make more effective use of the inter-agency GEMS/Water programme, which is coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme.

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E. Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific

The Governing Council,

Considering that regional and subregional arrangements and cooperation are crucial for the success of actions to protect the marine environment from land-based activities,

Taking into account that the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities 36/ calls on States to pursue more active participation in the negotiating processes for regional instruments, including accession or ratification, as appropriate, of regional seas agreements,

1. Requests the Executive Director, within the context of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and within available resources, to assist the Governments of the East Central Pacific in negotiating a regional agreement for the development and implementation of a plan of action for the protection and management of the marine and coastal environment of the East Central Pacific;

2. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress in this initiative to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

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19/15. International Coral Reef Initiative

The Governing Council,

Recalling that the International Coral Reef Initiative is a partnership of Governments, international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, established to address capacity-building, research and monitoring and the sustainable management and use of coral reefs and related ecosystems, Noting that the Initiative has received wide expressions of technical and political support, including from the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and The World Conservation Union,

Recalling that, in its decision 18/33 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council welcomed the Initiative and encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme regional programmes to incorporate the Initiative's recommendations into relevant activities and to translate them, whenever appropriate, into concrete supporting measures on protection and conservation,

Recognizing the significant achievements of the Initiative in focusing the world's attention on the need for action to protect and manage coral reefs,

Welcoming the Call to Action and Framework for Action developed by participants at the International Coral Reef Initiative Workshop held in Dumagnete City, the Philippines, from 29 May to 2 June 1995, the international workshop held in Panama in June 1996 and the International Coral Reef Initiative regional strategies developed at subsequent workshops in five International Coral Reef Initiative regions in the period 1995-1996,

Noting that the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other International Coral Reef Initiative partners, has played an active and vital role in the development of the Initiative to date and that the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme provides an important foundation for implementing the priorities identified by the regional strategies of the International Coral Reef Initiative,

Welcoming the establishment of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme, with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Conservation Union, as a sponsor and member of its Management Group and its Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee,

Recognizing that the success of the current phase of the Initiative requires continued global coordination as well as the translation of international momentum into action at the regional, national and local levels, and that to achieve these aims the leadership and focus of the Initiative must devolve to the regional level,

1. Expresses its support for the Call to Action and Framework for Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

2. Strongly encourages the Executive Director, particularly through the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in cooperation with Governments, other international, regional and national organizations and other International Coral Reef Initiative partners:

(a) To continue to play an active and leading role in the development, implementation and coordination of regional activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative, including through participation in its Coordinating Planning Committee;

(b) To continue to sponsor the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, paying particular attention to promoting the monitoring and assessment of reefs;

(c) To help build global awareness of the urgent need to conserve coral reef resources, for example through the 1997 International Year of the Reef campaign and the 1998 United Nations Year of the Oceans;

(d) To help promote the establishment of regional programmes in each of the six International Coral Reef Initiative regions and one or more demonstration projects in each region.

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19/16. Biosafety

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/36 B of 25 May 1995, on biosafety,

Noting decision II/5 adopted at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Jakarta from 6 to 17 November 1995, 41/ by which the Conference established an Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety for the development by the end of 1998 of a protocol to the Convention on biosafety, stressed the importance of the urgent finalization of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and noted that guidelines on biosafety, including the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology, may be used as an interim mechanism during the development of the protocol and to complement it after its completion, for the purposes of facilitating the development of national capacities to assess and manage risks, establish adequate information systems and develop expert human resources in biotechnology,

Noting the decisions and recommendations of the Global Consultation of Government-designated Experts on the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology, held in Cairo from 11 to 14 December 1995, 42/

Mindful of the importance of funding for capacity-building in biosafety and of the fact that the Global Environment Facility shall provide financial resources to developing countries for capacity-building in biosafety, including for the implementation by developing countries of the UNEP

41/ See UNEP/CBD/COP/2/19, annex II.

International Technical Guidelines, as decided in decisions III/5 and III/20 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its third meeting, held in Buenos Aires from 4 to 15 November 1996, 43/

Noting the recommendations of the first meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, held in Aarhus from 22 to 26 July 1996, 44/ and recommendation II/5 of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Montreal from 2 to 6 September 1996, 45/

Noting the recommendations of the International Workshop to Follow up on the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology, held in Buenos Aires on 31 October and 1 November 1996, 46/

Further noting that experience with international information exchange relating to transboundary transfers of organisms with novel traits will help to inform the development of the protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

1. Welcomes the adoption of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology 47/ and the two decisions taken at the Global Consultation of Government-designated Experts on the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology;

2. Welcomes the recommendations of the International Workshop to follow up on the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology;

3. Further welcomes and notes decision II/5 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its second meeting and decisions III/5 and III/20 adopted by the Conference at its third meeting, by which the Conference affirmed its support for a two-track approach through which the promotion of the application of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology can contribute to the development and implementation of a protocol on biosafety, without prejudicing the development and conclusion of such a protocol, and endorsed recommendation II/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice with regard to capacity-building in biosafety;

43/ See UNEP/CBD/COP/3/38, annex II.

44/ See UNEP/CBD/BSWG/1/4.

45/ See UNEP/CBD/COP/3/3, annex.

46/ See UNEP/IW/Biosafety/3, annex 1.

47/ See UNEP/Global Consultation/Biosafety/4, annex II.

4. Urges Governments and subregional and regional organizations to promote the implementation of the Guidelines at the national and, as appropriate, subregional and/or regional levels by designating focal points in countries to apply the Guidelines to the maximum extent possible;

5. Further urges Governments to promote safety in biotechnology at the regional and global levels by contributing relevant information to the International Register on Biosafety of the United Nations Environment Programme and by using all available mechanisms, drawing attention to the International Register, to implement the international information exchange provisions of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology, particularly with regard to the exchange of general information about national biosafety mechanisms, generic research of value to risk assessments and risk management and approvals given for the marketing of products containing or consisting of organisms with novel traits;

6. Requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of financial resources:

(a) To continue to promote the implementation of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology, particularly in developing countries, by carrying out such activities at the international, subregional and regional levels developed in consultation with the involved parties and organizations, taking into account the recommendations of the Cairo Global Consultation on the guidelines as well as relevant plans of action of other bodies, so as not to duplicate the activities;

(b) To explore with other United Nations and international bodies the mutual sharing of information about organisms with novel traits that is contained on international databases and the rationalization of these databases, in order to avoid the duplication of sources of information and the need for the multiple entry of data;

(c) To organize within two years a second international workshop on the state of the art of the implementation of the Guidelines and periodically to review progress made in the implementation of the Guidelines;

7. Affirms the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, in the implementation of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology in accordance with decisions III/5 and III/20 of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which refer to capacity-building in biosafety;

8. Requests the Executive Director to inform the Governing Council at its twentieth session on progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/17. The efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme toward the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1995-1996

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director [48] on the effort of the United Nations Environment Programme towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: [49] 1995-1996,

1. Welcomes the entry into force of the Convention on 26 December 1996 and urges all States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so, in order to be in a position to participate as parties in the first session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997, and highlights the importance of the second session of the Conference of the Parties being held in Africa;

2. Expresses its support for ongoing efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme to develop jointly with its partners appropriate indicators on land use and quality as part of an updated assessment methodology for drylands and desertification and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute, within the framework of the informal open-ended consultative process established by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to the elaboration of benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention, as well as to the development of a methodology for determining impact indicators;

3. Further expresses its support for the Programme's efforts to increase awareness of desertification and drought issues and disseminate targeted information materials to a broad range of media and the public;

4. Requests the Executive Director to maintain the function of the United Nations Environment Programme as a global centre of excellence on desertification control, promoting cooperation and coordination of worldwide efforts to combat desertification and/or to mitigate the effects of drought and to continue and intensify research and development collaboration with leading world scientific institutions and centres of excellence on desertification and land degradation and drought issues, particularly on the social and economic aspects of these problems, in accordance with the approved programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999;

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[48] UNEP/GC.19/7.

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to participate actively in assisting Governments and non-governmental and community-based organizations to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification and resolution 5/1, on urgent action for Africa, adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on 17 June 1994 [50] and to support, in accordance with the approved programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999, the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention;

6. *Takes note* of the decision of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to accept the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Convention Secretariat and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to collaborate with the Executive Secretary of the Convention in reaching understandings that specify the nature of the cooperation and support that it would provide to the Permanent Secretariat;

7. *Takes note also* that 31 May 1996 was the deadline for the official presentation of candidatures offering to host the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention and that by that date offers had been received from Canada, Germany and Spain to host the Permanent Secretariat at Montreal, Bonn and Murcia, respectively, [51] with the decision on the location of the headquarters of the Secretariat to be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

8. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to submit, on behalf of the Council, her report on the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme towards the implementation of the Convention in 1995 and 1996, through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997, to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its first session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. *Encourages* the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to contribute, in accordance with the approved programmes of work for the bienniums 1996-1997 and 1998-1999, to the implementation of the Convention and resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa, adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on 17 June 1994, on the basis of the resources provided for under programme activities to implement chapter 12 of Agenda 21 [1] in the developing countries, in particular in Africa, in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, in close collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention;

(b) To invite other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, financial institutions, funds and other interested parties to participate in the formulation and conclusion of partnership agreements or arrangements for the implementation of the Convention at all levels in affected developing countries, particularly in Africa;

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[50] See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III, sect. A.

[51] See A/AC.241/54/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3.

(c) To continue to support activities related to capacity-building and appropriate coordinating mechanisms at the national, subregional and regional levels;

(d) To intensify support for activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, at all levels, particularly in the preparation of national, subregional and regional action programmes through the United Nations Environment Programme regional offices for Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. Urges Governments to provide the Conference of the Parties through the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention relevant research and up-to-date data on the status of desertification and land degradation at the national level for the consideration of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Convention;

11. Calls upon Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to make further contributions for the implementation of the Convention in affected developing countries, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/18. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling that chapter 17 of Agenda 21 1/ called for the convening of a global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Further recalling the first United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which met in Bridgetown from 25 April to 6 May 1994, and the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States agreed to by the international community, 52/

Taking into account decision 14 of the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires on 11 and 12 November 1996, 40/

Convinced of the need to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States as an integral part of the implementation of Agenda 21,

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52/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, 25 April to 6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 1, annex II.

Acknowledging that small island developing States should be adequately represented in environmental forums, in particular the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, within the respective United Nations regional groups,

1. Urges the Executive Director to take all appropriate measures including, through any specific structure, to implement, within available resources, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Development States;

2. Requests the Executive Director to report on the steps taken to implement the Barbados Plan of Action to the body responsible for the review of the implementation of that Plan of Action to be held in 1999;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress achieved at the next session of the Governing Council.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/19. Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/39 D of 26 May 1995, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to support fully, within available resources, the aims and objectives of the North-East Asian Regional Environment Programme by providing its technical and financial support to the third meeting of senior officials on environmental in north-east Asia and to its adopted priority project proposals,

Recalling also its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to continue making efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in a coordinated manner with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions, including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Further recalling the Agenda 21 programme of action as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1/ particularly its chapter 34 (Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building), and chapter 38 (International institutional arrangements), section I, on regional and subregional cooperation and implementation,

Noting with appreciation the collaborative work of six Governments of the North-East Asian subregion, namely, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, to adopt unanimously the "Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation" at the third meeting of senior officials on environmental cooperation in north-east Asia, held from 17 to 20 September 1996, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and substantively and technically supported by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank,

Taking into account the deliberations of the third session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held from 7 to 11 October 1996 on, inter alia, the subject of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation,

Requests the Executive Director to support fully within available resources, the aims and objectives of the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation so as to carry out catalytic and coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme through its strengthened regional office in Thailand and also its International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan, by, inter alia:

(a) Providing technical support to the fourth meeting of senior officials on environmental cooperation in north-east Asia, scheduled to be held in August/September 1997 in Moscow;

(b) Providing technical and financial support to the priority project proposals under the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation unanimously adopted at the third meeting of senior officials on the environmental cooperation in north-east Asia for implementation;

(c) Assisting the countries of the subregion, as one of the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, in mobilizing the resources from the Facility to the priority project proposals under the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/20. Mid-term review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the mid-term review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development, 53/

53/ UNEP/GC.19/32.

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Recalling its decision 17/25 of 21 May 1993, by which the Council adopted the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s (the "Montevideo Programme II") and decided to review the implementation of the Programme not later than at its regular session in 1997,

Also recalling its decision 18/9 of 26 May 1995 requesting the Executive Director to develop, in preparing the periodic review of environmental law in accordance with Council decision 17/25, a position paper for international environmental law aiming at sustainable development and, within available resources, to prepare a study on the need for and feasibility of new international environmental instruments aiming at sustainable development,

Further recalling the request, made by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, for the United Nations Environment Programme to study further the concepts, requirements and implications of sustainable development and international law, as well as Commission decision 4/6 by which it welcomed the adoption by the Governing Council of decision 18/9 and noted with appreciation the steps taken by the United Nations Environment Programme towards the review of the Montevideo Programme II as an important contribution to achieving the tasks set out in Agenda 21,

Also recalling the invitation given to the United Nations Environment Programme by the General Assembly in resolution 51/181 of 16 December 1996 to include in its report to the General Assembly at its special session information and views on ways to address, in a forward-looking manner, national, regional and international application of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration,

Mindful of the special session of the General Assembly to be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/

Taking note with appreciation of the work done by the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law for the Mid-term Review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s,

1. Commends the United Nations Environment Programme for the action it has taken to implement the Montevideo Programme II over the period 1993-1996 and, in particular, the efficient use it has made of the limited resources available to it;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the position paper on international environmental law aiming at sustainable development; 54/

3. Takes note also of the preliminary study on the need for and feasibility of new international environmental instruments aiming at sustainable development 55/ and requests the Executive Director to

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54/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.12.

55/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.18.

continue the work of identifying ways of better implementing existing and future international instruments aiming at sustainable development and the need for and feasibility of such new instruments;

4. Endorses the observations and recommendations made by the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law for the Mid-term Review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s on specific programme areas of the Montevideo Programme II, 11/ and requests the Executive Director to use them as guidance in further implementing the Programme;

5. Encourages the Executive Director to implement the Programme, as appropriate, in close cooperation with the relevant international organizations;

6. Reaffirms that the environmental law programme should remain among the major priority areas on which the United Nations Environment Programme should concentrate in its 1998-1999 programme of work, and that adequate resources should be allocated for its implementation, taking into account, however, the overall financial challenges facing the organization;

7. Recommends that the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of international law aiming at sustainable development be reflected in the outcome of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, preceding the special session of the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, to be held in 1997;

8. Requests the Executive Director, in fulfilment of General Assembly resolution 51/181, to submit to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly, on behalf of the Governing Council, the observations and recommendations made by the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law indicating that they reflect the views of the Governing Council on the steps that should be taken to apply further the principles contained in the Rio Declaration, and to forward also the Executive Director's Mid-term Report on the Implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s, 56/ indicating that it contains information on the steps that have been taken to this end under the Montevideo Programme since 1993.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

56/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.13.

19/21. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 57/

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit her report, on its behalf, together with any comments made by delegations thereon, to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX), and to transmit it to the special session of the General Assembly due to be held from 23 to 27 June 1997;

3. Calls on States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to which they are eligible to become parties to do so;

4. Calls on States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment;

5. Requests the Executive Director to present updated information on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to the Governing Council at its twentieth session and at any special session that it may hold.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/22. The Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1996-1997 and proposals for 1998-1999

The Governing Council,

I. Resources of the Environment Fund

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the status of the Environment Fund covering the use of resources in the biennium 1994-1995, the revised use of resources in the biennium 1996-1997 and the proposed use of the projected resources in the biennium 1998-1999, 58/

57/ UNEP/GC.19/31.

58/ UNEP/GC.19/22 and Corr.1, part one.

Mindful of the fact that the future role of the United Nations Environment Programme is still a subject of discussion based, inter alia, on the report of the Executive Director on the contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997,

Having considered the secretariat's proposal for a revised appropriation of Fund resources in the biennium 1996-1997 of 34,861,400 dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget and 62.5 million dollars for the Fund programme activities,

1. Notes with great concern the deterioration of the environment at the global level despite some achievements in various areas and strongly stresses the need for urgent and immediate action;

2. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the Environment Fund at a higher level in the biennium 1996-1997 and appeals to all Governments to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, including through contributions in cash and in kind;

3. Notes with concern that the overall low level of contributions to the Environment Fund received and pledged for the biennium 1996-1997 has not only fallen short of the Governing Council's estimates by a significant margin but also means that the programme of activities approved by the Governing Council for the biennium 1996-1997 cannot be fully implemented;

4. Recognizes again the need to broaden the base of contributions to include all members of the United Nations;

5. Calls upon all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund, or, if they are already contributing, to increase their contributions in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to meet the tasks assigned to it;

6. Notes that, at the request of the Governing Council, the Executive Director has eliminated the practice of carrying over accumulated surpluses from biennium to biennium and that the financial reserve of the Fund is now insufficient to meet the cash needs of the United Nations Environment Programme in the early months of the year if Governments do not pay their contributions by the beginning of each year;

7. Urges all Governments in a position to do so to pay their contributions prior to the year to which the contributions relate, or at the latest at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

8. Urges all Governments to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund as far in advance as possible;

9. Requests the Executive Director to provide up-to-date statements on all other sources of funding available to the United Nations Environment Programme, including those provided by partner agencies to support elements of proposed programmes of work;

10. Approves the revised appropriation of Fund resources in 1996-1997 of 33,861,400 dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget and 63.5 million dollars for Fund programme activities;

11. Approves an appropriation of Fund resources in 1998-1999 of 27.5 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget, 75 million dollars for Fund programme activities and 5 million dollars for the Fund programme reserve;

12. Approves an extraordinary additional appropriation of Fund resources in 1998-1999 of up to one million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget to be earmarked for the following activities:

(a) 500,000 dollars for the studies requested in paragraph 5 of section II and paragraph 6 of section III of the present decision and other activities directly related to the implementation of improved management and administrative practices by the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) An additional 500,000 dollars for the costs associated with the anticipated special session of the Governing Council in the event that these costs are not covered by the United Nations regular budget;

13. Authorizes the Executive Director to maintain a sufficient cash carry-over in order to retain the necessary working capital to initiate implementation of the Fund programme;

14. Urges the Executive Director to take action to avoid duplication and build mutually reinforcing relations between the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and those of other agencies;

II. Management and administrative support costs budget

Recalling paragraph 12 of its decision 18/42, by which it approved an initial appropriation of 41,964,000 dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997,

Recalling paragraph 8 of its decision 18/42 of 25 May 1995, authorizing on an interim basis, the redefined management and administrative support costs budget format for 1996-1997, subject to review, any needed adjustment and final approval by the Council at its nineteenth session,

Further recalling paragraph 13 of its decision 18/42, requesting the Executive Director to administer the appropriation for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997 with the utmost economy and restraint, consistent with the effective implementation of the environment programme, and to make every effort to reduce administrative expenditure under this budget, bearing in mind the reduced availability of resources,

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Having considered and taken note of the performance report on the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997, 59/ in particular the cost-reduction measures taken in response to the significant shortfall in contributions, as set out in the Executive Director's report,

1. Approves the changes in the provision of the management and administrative support costs support to Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi in 1997, as proposed and explained in the report of the Executive Director on developments in conference servicing; 60/

2. Notes with approval the cost-reduction measures taken in 1996 as well as those proposed for 1997;

3. Approves a revised appropriation of 33,861,400 dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

4. Requests the Executive Director to investigate steps for further savings in the 1997 management and administrative support costs budget (for example, in staff, operating or travel costs) and to take steps to create conditions for further reductions in 1998-1999. Any such cost savings in, or additional contributions for, 1997 should be directed towards programme elements 1, 2, 3 and 4 without affecting the budgets for the regions;

5. Requests the Executive Director to present a report to member States that contains an evaluation, based, inter alia, on the report of the Secretary-General, of the management and administrative support of the United Nations Environment Programme, including how it interacts with the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and whether it is efficient and effective in delivering on the programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme. This report will be distributed to member States well in advance of the next session of the Governing Council for their review. Based on this report and other available information, the Governing Council will review the levels of appropriations for the management and administrative support costs budget in both the 1996-1997 and 1998-1999 bienniums;

6. Notes that staff working for the United Nations Office at Nairobi will not be included in the United Nations Environment Programme staffing table financed from the management and administrative support costs budget beyond 1996-1997;

7. Confirms the provisional transfers, upgrades and changes of personnel authorized by paragraph 11 of decision 18/42, subject to the following adjustments in 1998-1999:

59/ Ibid., part two.

60/ UNEP/GC.19/5.

(a) The redeployment of telecommunications and electronic services and the Mercure system from the management and administrative support costs into the Fund programme activities budget, resulting in the abolition of eleven management and administrative support costs posts (five Professional posts, six General Service posts);

(b) The redeployment of the Resource Mobilization Unit from the management and administrative support costs into the Fund programme activities budget, resulting in the abolition of seven posts (three Professional posts, four General Service posts);

(c) The upgrading of one post in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific from G7 to P-2, in accordance with the findings of the classification exercise conducted by the United Nations Office of Human Resources Management;

8. Approves the revised format and structure of the management and administrative support costs budget as set out in the proposed budget for 1998-1999;

9. Approves an appropriation of 27.5 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

10. Approves an extraordinary appropriation of one million dollars as outlined in paragraph 12 of section I of the present decision;

11. Approves the annual payment of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Office at Nairobi as a lump sum;

III. Programme of work: revised appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997 and appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1998-1999

Recalling again paragraph 38.21 of Agenda 21, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, reconfirming the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and requiring that its Governing Council continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999, 61/

1. Notes with concern the need to reduce the programme of activities approved by the Council at its eighteenth session owing to the shortfall in contributions to the Environment Fund;

2. Approves the revised appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997 to 63.5 million dollars;

61/ UNEP/GC.19/22 and Corr.1, part four.

3. Approves the following apportionment of the revised appropriation:

	Subprogramme	Thousands of dollars
1.	Sustainable management and use of natural resources	$22,506
2.	Sustainable production and consumption	$7,106
3.	A better environment for human health and well-being	$7,734
4.	Globalization and the environment	$5,048
5.	Global and regional servicing and support	$20,105
*	Additional resources transferred from the MASC budget to be allocated to programmes 1, 2, 3 and 4	$1,000
	TOTAL	$63,500

4. Approves an appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1998-1999 of 75 million dollars;

5. Requests the Executive Director to maintain the multilateral functions of the Regional Office for North America and the Regional Office for Europe, reflecting the importance attached to those functions, assuring the implementation of the programme of work of those offices by the allocation of sufficient resources under subprogramme element 5.1;

6. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to undertake, as a priority, an evaluation of the role, functions (including editing and publications, responsiveness to requests from Governments for assistance and advisory services) and management of all of the United Nations Environment Programme regional offices, with a view to enhancing effectiveness, efficiency, adequate distribution of funds and the implementation of the programme adopted by the Governing Council. This evaluation report would be submitted in advance of the next session of the Governing Council at which time the funding levels of all regional offices will be reviewed. Interested Governments are welcome to submit contributions;

7. Decides to apportion this appropriation for 1998-1999 as follows, with suggested apportionment also provided for overall appropriation levels of $90 million and $105 million, should such levels be available:

/...

Subprogramme, programme element		Allocation	Base budget of $75m	Plus first supplement of $15m	Plus second supplement of $15m
		%	$m	$m	$m
1	**Sustainable management and use of natural resources**	**31.00**	**23.25**	**27.90**	**32.55**
1.1	Caring for freshwater, coastal and marine resources	15.40	11.55	13.86	16.17
1.2	Caring for biological resources	7.40	5.55	6.66	7.77
1.3	Caring for land resources	6.50	4.88	5.85	6.83
1.4	Caring for the atmosphere	1.70	1.28	1.53	1.79
2	**Sustainable production and consumption**	**10.10**	**7.58**	**9.09**	**10.61**
2.1	Sustainable production and consumption	8.20	6.15	7.38	8.61
2.2	Reduced environmental impacts of energy utilization	1.90	1.43	1.71	2.00
3	**A better environment for human health and well-being**	**13.40**	**10.05**	**12.06**	**14.07**
3.1	Reduced impacts of toxic chemicals and wastes	8.20	6.15	7.38	8.61
3.2	Promotion of human health and well-being through improved environmental management practices	3.00	2.25	2.70	3.15
3.3	Emerging environmental health issues	0.70	0.53	0.63	0.74
3.4	Mitigating the effects of environmental change and environmental emergencies	1.50	1.13	1.35	1.58
4	**Globalization and the environment**	**8.50**	**6.38**	**7.65**	**8.93**
4.1	Trade and the environment	1.70	1.28	1.53	1.79
4.2	Environment and economics	1.30	0.98	1.17	1.37
4.3	Environmental law	5.50	4.13	4.95	5.78
5	**Global and regional servicing and support**	**37.00**	**27.75**	**33.30**	**38.85**
5.1	Support to regional and subregional cooperation	8.00	6.00	7.20*	8.40*
5.2	Environmental assessment, regional networks and UNEPnet/Mercure	20.10	15.08	18.09	21.11
5.2.1	Environmental assessment	6.80	5.10	6.12	7.14
5.2.2	Coordination and promotion of policy relevant research	1.40	1.05	1.26	1.47
5.2.3	Information for decision-making and action planning (ENRIN)	5.70	4.28	5.13	5.99
5.2.4	Environmental information service	4.30	3.23	3.87	4.52
5.2.5	Global communications and electronic services (UNEPnet/Mercure)	1.90	1.43	1.71	2.00
5.3	Policy, Governing Council, inter-agency affairs and resource mobilization	8.90	6.68	8.01	9.35
5.3.1	Environmental citizenship, public information, awareness, education and outreach	5.90	4.43	5.31	6.20

/...

5.3.2	Inter-agency and policy affairs	2.30	1.73	2.07	2.42
5.3.3	Resource mobilization	0.70	0.53	0.63	0.74
	GRAND TOTAL	100.00	75.00	90.00	105.00

* See paragraph 6 above.

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that projects/activities deferred or deleted from the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 are covered in the biennium 1998-1999.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/23. *Ensuring adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme*

The Governing Council,

Conscious of the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, in order to be effective, to have adequate and predictable funding,

Concerned that, especially in the last biennium, not only the Programme's resource base of voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund but also its predictability underwent serious erosion,

Requests the Executive Director to explore, in consultation with Governments, ways and means to secure stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme in the future, and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/24. *Trust funds*

A. *Management of trust funds*

The Governing Council

1. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the eighteenth session of the Governing Council:

(a) General Trust Fund in Support of the Work of the Government-designated Group of Experts on Chemical Risk Reduction, with an initial expiry date of 31 December 1997;

/...

(b) General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation and Negotiation of an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade, with an initial expiry date of 31 December 1997;

(c) General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with an initial expiry date of 31 December 1998;

(d) General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, with an expiry date of 31 December 1999;

(e) General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with an expiry date of 31 December 1999;

(f) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Organization of a Technology Transfer Workshop on the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol for French-Speaking African Countries (financed by the Government of France), with an expiry date of 31 December 1996;

(g) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the Pacific (financed by the Government of Denmark), with an initial expiry date of 31 December 1998;

(h) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of Australia), with no fixed expiry date;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Secondment of a United Nations Environment Programme Senior Officer to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), with no fixed expiry date;

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Professional and Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of the United States of America), with no fixed expiry date;

2. Notes and approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal – up to 31 December 2002;

(b) Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal – up to 31 December 2002;

(c) General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity – up to 31 December 1999;

/...

(d) General Trust Fund in Support of the Work of the Government-designated Group of Experts on Chemical Risk Reduction – to be without a fixed expiry date;

(e) General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation and Negotiation of an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade – to be without a fixed expiry date;

(f) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support National Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping in Kenya (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) – up to 31 December 1996;

3. Approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director, subject to the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(a) General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment – up to 31 December 2000;

(b) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme – up to 31 December 1999;

(c) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region – up to 31 December 1999;

(d) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas – up to 31 December 1998;

(e) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean – up to 31 December 1998;

(f) Regional Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – up to 31 December 1999;

(g) Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution – up to 31 December 1999;

(h) Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer – up to 31 December 2000;

(i) Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals – up to 31 December 2000;

(j) General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region – up to 31 December 1999;

(k) Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer – up to 31 December 2000;

/...

(l) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region – up to 31 December 1999;

(m) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland) – up to 31 December 1997;

(n) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) – up to 31 December 1998;

(o) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany) – up to 31 December 1999;

(p) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility – up to 30 June 2001;

(q) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden) – up to 31 December 1999;

(r) INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States) – up to 31 December 1998;

(s) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Activities on Environmental Issues (financed by the Government of Japan) – no fixed expiry date;

(t) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage Caused by Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq – up to 31 December 1999;

(u) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support National Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping in Kenya (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) - up to 31 December 1997;

(v) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland) – up to 31 December 1999;

4. Notes and approves the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

/...

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Capacities of Developing Countries in the Management of Chemicals (financed by the Government of Switzerland);

(b) Trust Fund for the Establishment of the Interim Secretariat of the Biological Diversity Convention - up to 31 December 1996.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

B. Management issues and the cost of administering trust funds

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the cost of administering trust funds, 62/

Mindful of the growth in the number of trust funds,

Concerned that the proliferation of trust funds requires the diversion of the human and other resources of the United Nations Environment Programme to administrative functions,

Further concerned that the administration of trust funds by the United Nations Environment Programme detracts from its important programmatic and policy functions as trustee,

Recalling the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 63/ containing its observations on the Environment Fund budget,

Noting the recommendation that the Governing Council should clarify the role of the Executive Director as well as the role of the Council itself in the administration and programming of trust-funds activities,

1. Requests the Executive Director to fulfil decision 18/44 in a more comprehensive manner by identifying the full administrative and management costs incurred by the individual trust funds and the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Recommends that, if appropriate, the Executive Director should request the assistance of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions or any other office within the United Nations system for help in developing the methodology required;

62/ UNEP/GC.19/18.

63/ UNEP/GC.19/L.1.

3. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To issue a comprehensive summary report that includes a description of the major programmes or activities undertaken by the programmatic trust funds, as well as indicating the infrastructure required within the United Nations Environment Programme to manage and administer those trust funds;

(b) On a separate basis, to provide to the members of the Governing Council, on a biannual basis, a list of each fund's donors and the amounts that they contribute;

4. Decides to take up at its twentieth session a full discussion on the roles of the Executive Director and the Council, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, with a view to identifying recommendations for further action;

5. Requests the Executive Director to provide information on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi related to the programming, administration and management of funds in advance of the twentieth session of the Governing Council to facilitate the discussion;

6. Also requests, on the conviction that further work is needed in this area, the Executive Director, as head of both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to move to implement the best and most cost-effective means to ensure the expeditious servicing of all programmatic units covered by trust funds;

7. Encourages donors to review the situation regarding activities covered by trust funds within their purview and report their observations to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/25. Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and revision of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and revision of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, [64]

Recalling that the management and administrative support costs budget should include only those cross-cutting administrative services that support all substantive subprogrammes,

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[64] UNEP/GC.19/3.

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Recalling the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 7 of its report on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1996-1997 and proposals for 1998-1999, 63/ which states that there is a need to look at the long-term stability of the Fund and to explore different options or other sources of funding, such as those which could be provided by non-governmental organizations or the private sector,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Approves the following revisions of the Financial Rules of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) Where the expression "programme and programme support costs" is used (rules 209.1, 210.1, 211.2, 211.5, 212.1), it shall be replaced by the expression "management and administrative support costs", which is deemed to include "programme support costs";

(b) In rule 201.4, the reference to "ST/SGB/Financial Rules/1" shall read "ST/SGB/Financial Rules/Rev.3 (1985)";

(c) Rule 203.3 shall read: "Voluntary contributions from non-governmental sources in excess of $500,000 shall be accepted only with the prior approval of the Governing Council or its subsidiary body";

(d) In rule 204.1, the words "or others" shall be inserted after the words "supporting organizations". This would permit the acceptance by the Executive Director of contributions from profit-making organizations earmarked for specific services or activities;

(e) A new rule 204.2 shall be introduced as follows: "Counterpart contributions, as outlined in rule 204.1 above, that are made by profit-making organizations may be accepted by the Executive Director as long as the contributions are directed towards activities consistent with the programme of work and only with the prior approval of the Governing Council or its subsidiary body";

(f) In rule 206.2, the first word of the rule, "Fund", shall be replaced by the words "United Nations Environment Programme";

3. Strongly urges the Executive Director to consult appropriate United Nations authorities and other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies that receive voluntary contributions or counterpart contributions, as outlined above in the revisions to rules 203.3 and 204.1 and in the new rule 204.2, to ensure that the appropriate and necessary procedures and mechanisms are in place before any such contributions are sought or accepted;

4. Approves the following revisions of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) In article VI, paragraph 3 (c), the expression "Programme and programme support costs" shall be replaced by "Management and administrative support costs";

/...

(b) In Article VIII, paragraph 6, the words "Environment Co-ordination Board" shall be replaced by the words "Administrative Committee on Coordination";

5. Requests the Executive Director to consult the financial authorities of the United Nations and other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies on the comprehensive review of the financial rules of the United Nations Environment Programme and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/26. Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1994-1995 ended 31 December 1995

The Governing Council,

Having considered the note by the Executive Director on the financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1994-1995 ended 31 December 1995, 65/

1. Takes note of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1994-1995 ended 31 December 1995; 66/

2. Takes note also of the comments of the Executive Director on the observations of the Advisory Committee; 67/

3. While recognizing that many of the functions recommended for corrective action in the financial report and audited accounts for 1994-1995 have been moved to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, nevertheless requests the Executive Director to implement, for those functions still within the purview of the United Nations Environment Programme, the necessary corrective actions recommended, before the end of the biennium 1996-1997, and to report on the results to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

65/ UNEP/GC.19/33.

66/ A/51/533.

67/ UNEP/GC.19/33, paras. 7-9.

19/27. Developments in conference-servicing

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on developments in conference-servicing; 68/

2. Encourages the Executive Director to work closely with the United Nations, the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to ensure that there is a smooth transition to the new arrangement, with minimal disruption for conference-servicing support during the coming transition.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/28. Enhancing human-resource utilization within the United Nations Environment Programme, while ensuring the complementary and appropriate use of individual and corporate consultancies

The Governing Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on enhancing human-resource utilization within the United Nations Environment Programme, while ensuring the complementary and appropriate use of individual and corporate consultancies; 69/

2. Requests the Executive Director to take early measures to implement in full Governing Council decision 18/49 of 25 May 1995;

3. Further requests the Executive Director, in implementing Governing Council decision 18/49, to take into account subsequent reports by United Nations bodies on the use of consultants by the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to continue to report on the issue to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

68/ UNEP/GC.19/5.

69/ UNEP/GC.19/15.

19/29. Management issues

A. Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement

The Governing Council,

Mindful of the fact that the rules and regulations of the United Nations are fully applicable to the United Nations Environment Programme, as noted in the report of the Executive Director on prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement, 70/

Affirming that these rules and regulations constitute the basic obligation and responsibility of the United Nations Environment Programme to operate in such a way as to avoid waste, fraud and mismanagement,

Believing that good management practices are crucial to obtaining adequate implementation of the programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and necessary to restore the confidence of the member Governments,

Concerned at the extent and nature of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 71/

Considering the current financial and management crisis facing the organization, as reflected in a drop-off in contributions to the Environment Fund,

1. Requests the Executive Director to identify and implement needed improvements in the policies and practices of the United Nations Environment Programme designed to counter waste, fraud and mismanagement, including but not limited to:

(a) The appropriate delegation of programme-planning authority to line management;

(b) Strengthening oversight mechanisms;

(c) Clarifying financial procedures and incorporating into the reports of the United Nations Environment Programme accurate and complete financial information related to income and expenditures;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to issue and implement a plan for further measures that incorporates the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the forthcoming report from the Office of Internal Oversight Services by the end of the year;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit an interim report on these measures to member States within six months of the adoption of the present decision and a final report to the twentieth session of the Governing Council;

70/ UNEP/GC.19/6.

71/ UNEP/GC.19/INF.1.

/...

4. Encourages Governments to submit comments to the Executive Director prior to the twentieth session of the Governing Council on these issues and requests that these comments be reported to the Governing Council at that session.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/29 B. Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/2 of 26 May 1995, on the review of governing structures of United Nations Environment Programme to make it more efficient, effective and transparent,

Taking note of the observations made in the 1997 report of the Office of the Internal Oversight Services on the review of the United Nations Environment Programme and the administrative practices of its secretariat, including the United Nations Office at Nairobi, [72]

Taking note also of the request made by the Governing Council to the Executive Director in section II, paragraph 5, of its decision 19/22 of 7 February 1997 to present a report containing an evaluation of the management and administrative support of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and of the Executive Director, to make an assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and to make specific recommendations to the Governing Council at its twentieth session as to how to make the secretariat more efficient, effective and transparent.

10th meeting
4 April 1997

19/30. Mercure satellite communications system

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure satellite communications system, [73]

Recalling its decision 17/38 of 21 May 1993, paragraph 7, by which it approved the Executive Director's proposal to finalize an agreement with the participants in the Mercure project,

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[72] A/51/810.

[73] UNEP/GC.19/21.

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Recalling also its decision 18/47 of 25 May 1995, by paragraph 8 of which it authorized the expenditure of funds from the management and administrative support costs budget and the programme budget to implement, manage and maintain the system,

Taking note of the Supplemental Agreement between the Republic of Kenya and the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the Installation and Operation of the Mercure Satellite Telecommunication System Ground Station within the Headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, concluded on 31 January 1997,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Expresses once again its gratitude to the donors for their generous contribution to the initial Mercure configuration, which will facilitate access by the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners to services available through the emerging information highways and will allow the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its mandate for the delivery of environmental data in a more timely, cost-effective and efficient manner;

3. Expresses its highest gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for its expressed commitment and willingness, as the host Government, to ensure an advanced telecommunication capability for the United Nations Environment Programme through, inter alia, authorizing the immediate commencement of tests and operation by the Programme of the Mercure earth stations at Gigiri as United Nations facilities in accordance with the rules and regulations of the International Telecommunication Union and the Supplemental Agreement between the Government of Kenya and the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Welcomes the expeditious processing by the Government of Kenya of the necessary documentation for the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization which will make possible the confirmation that Mercure earth stations at Gigiri are authorized for operational service;

5. Expresses its gratitude to the host countries of the Mercure stations for their willingness to participate in the project;

6. Encourages further extension of this initial project to new countries and users by seeking additional funding from other sources potentially available to the Programme;

7. Encourages the Executive Director to seek to minimize operational Mercure costs in the United Nations Offices in Nairobi through efficient management by the United Nations Environment Programme;

8. Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to explore the use of the UNEPnet/Mercure system by the United Nations at other sites outside Kenya where technically and economically feasible;

/...

9. Authorizes the Executive Director to engage in collaborative programmes with other donors to provide for the continuing development of the UNEPnet/Mercure infrastructure through a collaboration co-funded by the United Nations Environment Programme and other donors;

10. Requests the Executive Director, once the Mercure system is fully operational, to ensure that a full review and cost-benefit analysis of the system and the experience gained in its initial operation is carried out and to submit a report thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session;

11. Encourages countries with environmental data and information assets of value for environmental monitoring and management to provide for all countries, particularly developing countries, ease of access and delivery through this initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme;

12. Authorizes the Executive Director to finance from the budget the continued testing and operation of Mercure.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/31. Strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/38 A, B and C of 26 May 1995,

Bearing in mind paragraph 38.23 of Agenda 21, 1/ in which the United Nations Environment Programme is urged to strengthen its regional offices,

Convinced of the need to adapt existing structures for regional cooperation on the environment to the challenges raised by the process begun at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992,

1. Underscores the importance of the role of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in the development and implementation of the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme as approved by the Governing Council;

2. Requests, in the context of the above, the Executive Director to strengthen the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme by providing them with appropriate functional and administrative capabilities to enable decentralized implementation of regional environmental programmes and priorities, as developed by regional and subregional ministerial meetings;

3. Notes with appreciation the final reports of the meetings of ministers of environment held at the regional level, particularly those in which decisions were adopted in relation to environmental priorities, as well as on the restructuring and financial situation of the United Nations Environment Programme;

/...

4. Invites Governments to increase their participation in their respective regional cooperation programmes on the environment, in collaboration with intergovernmental organizations operating in their regions, and urges Governments to participate fully and more actively in these regional programmes.

8th meeting
7 February 1997

19/32. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation, including the mandate of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also its decision 18/2 of 26 May 1995 on the review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Reaffirming the importance for the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, and to promote the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system,

Conscious of the need to improve the governance of the United Nations Environment Programme to enable it to fulfil its mandate as strengthened by chapter 38 of Agenda 21, 1/and further enhanced by the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme adopted by the Governing Council in its decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997,

Emphasizing the importance of democratic, efficient, transparent and representative governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme, with a complementary, specific and distinct role and mandate for each of their components,

Recognizing the need for properly mandated subsidiary bodies that can act during the inter-sessional period for and on behalf of the Governing Council within their respective mandates and the framework of the decisions adopted by the Council,

Recognizing also the need to ensure adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme,

Decides

1. To establish a High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, with the following mandate:

(a) To consider the international environmental agenda and to make reform and policy recommendations to the Governing Council;

/...

(b) To provide guidance and advice to the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues between sessions of the Governing Council to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to make a timely response;

(c) To enhance the collaboration and cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme with other relevant multilateral bodies as well as with the environmental conventions and their secretariats;

(d) To support the Executive Director in mobilizing adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme for the implementation of the global environmental agenda approved by the Governing Council;

2. That the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall consist of 36 members, elected by the Governing Council from among Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, for a period of two years, taking into account the principle of equitable regional representation as reflected in the composition of the Governing Council. The President of the Governing Council and the Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be invited to attend the meetings. No member State shall serve on the Committee for more than two consecutive terms;

3. That the European Community and other regional intergovernmental economic organizations may attend the meetings of the Committee;

4. That the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall elect from amongst its members a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur;

5. That the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall meet at least once a year in Nairobi. Meetings of the Committee may be convened elsewhere by its Chairperson, in consultation with its Bureau, in connection with major international environmental meetings;

6. That the report of the meetings of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall be made immediately available to all members of the United Nations Environment Programme;

7. That, with a view to strengthening the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, it shall have henceforth the following mandate:

(a) Within the policy and budgetary framework provided by the Governing Council, to review, monitor and assess the implementation of decisions of the Council on administrative, budgetary and programme matters;

(b) To review the draft programme of work and budget during their preparation by the secretariat;

(c) To review reports requested of the secretariat by the Governing Council on the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the functions and work of the secretariat and to make recommendations thereon to the Governing Council;

/...

(d) To prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Governing Council based on inputs from the secretariat and on the results of the functions specified above;

8. That the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall consist of the representatives of all States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, and the European Community, accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme, whether based in Nairobi or outside;

9. That the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall elect a Bureau composed of a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, for a period of two years, taking into account the principles of rotation and equitable geographical representation;

10. That the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall hold four regular meetings a year. Extraordinary meetings may be also convened by its Chairperson, after consultation with the other members of the Bureau or at the request of at least five members of the Committee. The Committee of Permanent Representatives may establish subcommittees, working groups and task forces as deemed appropriate to carry out its mandate;

11. That the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials and the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be accountable to the Governing Council and will submit reports on their work at each session of the Governing Council;

12. That, save as otherwise provided in this decision, the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, including rule 63, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials until it adopts its own rules of procedure. The proceedings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be conducted in English;

13. That the secretariat shall provide documentation and information related to the meetings of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, four weeks in advance of the meeting in question;

14. That an appropriate budget shall be allocated by the Governing Council for these two subsidiary organs. The financial implications of the present decision shall not be borne by the Environment Fund and should be within the financial provisions currently available for meetings of the Governing Council;

15. To invite Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies to consider providing financial assistance to facilitate the participation of developing countries and in particular the least developed among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, and to establish a trust fund to this end;

/...

16. That this governance structure shall be reviewed by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, with a view to assessing its effectiveness taking into account any relevant results of the reform process of the United Nations system.

10th meeting
4 April 1997

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Governing Council

At its 8th plenary meeting, on 7 February 1997, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its twentieth session at Nairobi from 17 to 28 May 1999.

The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 16 May 1999, the day before the opening of the session.

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, the Council decided, in the light of paragraph 14 of its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997, that its twentieth session would be of five days duration, from 24 to 28 May 1999. Informal consultations among heads of delegation would continue to be held on the day before the opening of the session.

The Council approved the following provisional agenda for its twentieth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;
   (d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.
5. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions.

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6. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

7. Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Council.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report.

10. Closure of the session.

Special session of the Governing Council to review the results and decisions of the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

At its 8th plenary meeting, 7 February 1997, the Governing Council decided to hold a special session, from 12 to 14 November 1997, to review reports to be completed by the secretariat, as well as the results and decisions of the General Assembly at its special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21. 1/

However, at its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, the Governing Council decided, in order to allow the secretariat sufficient time to complete the tasks assigned to it at the nineteenth session of the Council, that dates of the special session should not be fixed as yet but that it should be held over a three-day period between late 1997 and the end of January 1998. It was further decided that the secretariat should provide appropriate advance notification of the exact dates, once determined, and distribute the required documentation in accordance with established procedures.

Constitution of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials established pursuant to decision 19/32

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 4 April 1997, the Governing Council decided that the members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, established pursuant to its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997, shall be elected according to the following pattern of geographical distribution:

(a) Ten seats for African States;

(b) Eight seats for Asian States;

(c) Four seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Six seats for Latin American and Caribbean States; and

(e) Eight seats for Western Europe and other States.

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The Council also decided that the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials should be constituted in accordance with the following procedure:

(a) The coordinators of the respective regional groups will expeditiously undertake consultations within their groups with a view to agreeing on nominations of members to the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials and will communicate those nominations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme by 15 May 1997;

(b) Upon receipt of the nominations, the Executive Director shall accordingly notify all States members of the United Nations and its specialized agencies; and

(c) Those nominated will be empowered to function on a provisional basis as members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials until the next special or regular session of the Governing Council, whichever occurs earlier, where the nominations will be formally confirmed by the Council as elected.

The Council further decided the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials should meet before the next special session of the Governing Council, in order to consider the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/ to be held from 23 to 27 June 1997.

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Annex II

REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 5 February 1997, the Governing Council commenced the high-level segment of the session and heard statements by ministers of environment and their representatives, as well as by other specially invited speakers.

2. The high-level segment was opened on 5 February 1997 by Mr. George Saitoti, Vice-President and Minister of Planning and National Development of Kenya. The meeting was then addressed by Mr. Ismail Razali, President of the United Nations General Assembly and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations; Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development who spoke on behalf of Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations; and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell. The text of the Executive Director's statement was subsequently circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.19/29/Add.2.

3. In addition, the Council heard an address at the opening session of the high-level segment by Mr. Maurice Njoroge, representing the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) in Nairobi, who spoke on behalf of the youth of the world.

4. At the opening session of the high-level segment, the Council also heard statements from Mr. Arnold José Gabaldón, President of the Governing Council; Mr. German García-Duran, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Environment Programme, who spoke on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; Ms. M. De Boer, Minister of Housing, Physical Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands, who spoke on behalf of the European Union; and Mr. Hadi Manaji, Vice-President and Director of the Environment Department, Islamic Republic of Iran.

5. At the 3rd meeting of plenary, 2nd session of the high-level segment, the Council heard statements by Mr. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad, Minister of State, India; Ms. Angela Merkel, Minister of the Environment, Germany; Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Administrator, National Environmental Protection Agency, China; Mr. Stanislaw Zelichowski, Minister for Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry, Poland; Mr. Svend Auken, Minister for Environment and Energy, Denmark; Ms. Eileen Claussen, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, United States of America; Ms. Julia Carabias, Secretary of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries, Mexico; Mr. Ahmed Noui, Secretary of State in charge of Environment, Algeria; Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray, Secretary of State of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, Argentina; Mr. Ahmad Bin Mubarak Shamas, Under-Secretary for Environmental Affairs, Oman; Mr. Takao Ohnishi, Vice-Minister of Environment, Japan; Mr. Aleksei F. Poryadin, First Deputy Chairman, State Committee for Environmental Protection, Russian Federation; Mr. Seo-Sung Yoon, Vice-Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea; Mr. Thorbjorn Berntson, Minister of Environment, Norway; Mr. Brendan Howlin, Minister for the Environment, Ireland; Mr. Sarwono Kusumaatmadja, State Minister of Environment, Indonesia; Mr. John Fraser, Ambassador for the Environment, Canada; Mr. Matia

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Baguma-Isoke, Minister of State for Natural Resources, Uganda; Mr. Bo Kjellen, Ambassador, Ministry of Environment, Sweden; Mr. Alex Sulc, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Czech Republic; Mr. Philippe Roche, Secretary of State, Federal Office of the Environment, Forests and Landscape, Switzerland; Mr. Howard Bamsey, Ambassador for the Environment, Australia; and Mr. Ion Oltean, Minister of Water, Forestry and Environmental Protection, Romania.

6. At the 4th meeting of the plenary, 3rd session of the high-level segment, the Council was addressed by two special guests: Mr. David McDowell, Director General, World Conservation Union (IUCN); and Mr. Nitin Desai, Under Secretary-General, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The Council then heard statements by: Mr. Zlocha Jozef, Minister of Environment, Slovakia; Ms. Katalia Szili, State Secretary of Political Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Hungary; Mr. Chu Tuan Nha, Vice Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, Viet Nam; Mr. Jan Peeters, Secretary of State for Security, Social Integration and Environment, Belgium; Mr. Henrique Cavalcanti, former Minister of Environment, on behalf of the Minister of the Environment, Brazil; Mr. Saleh Al Shara, Director General for the Environment Protection Corporation, Jordan; Mr. Rajesh Bhagwan, Minister of Environment and Quality of Life, Mauritius; Mr. A. H. El Munajed, Minister for Environmental Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic, Ms. L. Schilling, Chargé d'Affaires, Venezuela, Mr. Victor Ramoz, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines; Mr. Valerio Calzolaio, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Italy, Mr. C. C. Chimutengwende, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Zimbabwe, Ms. Isabel Tocino, Minister of Environment, Spain; Mr. Ziyattin Tokar, Minister of Environment, Turkey; Mr. Sahidou Dango-Nadey, Minister of Environment, Housing and Urban Development, Benin; Mr. Prakash M. Singh, Minister, Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal; Mr. Henry K. Kosgey, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya;

7. At the 5th meeting of the plenary, 3rd session of the high-level segment, statements were made by: Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, Pakistan; Mr. Nizar Ibrahim Tawfik, Vice-President, Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration, Saudi Arabia; Mr. Ricardo Sanchez Sosa, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, Cuba; Mr. John S. Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Mr. Glen Lindholm, Permanent Representative of Finland to UNEP; Mr. Mohammad Al-Sarawi, Director General of the Environment Public Authority, Kuwait; Mr. Abdul Jabar A. Ridha, Director General of Preventive Health and Environment, Iraq; Mr. Mohamed Tahir Ela, Minister for Environment and Tourism, Sudan; Mr. German García-Duran, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNEP, Colombia, Mr. Magnus Johannesson, Secretary-General, Ministry for the Environment, Iceland; Mr. Emilio Ruiz-Tagle, Director of Special Policies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile and Mr. U Ohn Gyaw, Chairman of the National Commission of Environmental Affairs of Myanmar. A statement was also made by Mr. Ian Johnson, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility (GEF).

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Annex III

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. There was general agreement that it was essential to modify the current governing structures of UNEP to enhance the organization's effectiveness. Many representatives felt that, in addition to agreeing on a reform of the role, functions and composition of the Governing Council and an appropriate inter-sessional governing structure subsidiary to the Council, it was necessary to see how the secretariat itself could improve its own working so as to be more transparent and effective, particularly in regard to its interactions with the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which currently played a valuable role in providing a consultative and advisory mechanism for the Executive Director on various matters relating to policy, programme and financing. Some representatives observed that an appropriate reform of the UNEP governing structures was interrelated, with UNEP receiving adequate and predictable financing, and the secretariat performing its appointed functions effectively. Some representatives emphasized the need for UNEP to focus its work in the light of the changed circumstances and institutional landscape since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Several representatives did not, however, consider it necessary to recast the role and functions of UNEP radically. Many felt that, in particular, UNEP should not seek to become a specialized agency of the United Nations.

2. Some representatives felt that the Executive Director's report on review of the UNEP governing structures (UNEP/GC.19/10) did not adequately, or in a balanced manner, reflect the views of Governments and that it was biased in one direction. Some relevant considerations in deciding upon an appropriate structure of governance for UNEP included those of representativeness and cost-effectiveness. Several representatives observed that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, when given an appropriate mandate, and following appropriate procedures, could perform effectively the functions envisaged for the inter-sessional body to ensure continuity in policy advice and consultation.

3. Some representatives observed that the membership of the Governing Council must be increased significantly to enhance the influence of UNEP in matters relating to setting the global environmental agenda and policy direction. They pointed out that universal membership in the Council could, in principle, be appropriate for UNEP, considering the pervasive significance of global environmental issues. Some felt that the Council should meet annually instead of biennially. Some others felt that it would not be desirable to have a larger membership in the Governing Council, or to organize the Council's meetings more frequently than biennially, as it might increase the costs of administering the UNEP governing structures. In view of the current financial situation of UNEP, it was important to explore all avenues of minimizing costs.

4. Some representatives observed that UNEP should place an increasing emphasis on actions at the country level and should consult with Governments more effectively, and on a regular basis, in the design and implementation of

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the programme. From that standpoint, it was necessary that the regional intergovernmental consultative structures on environmental matters that already existed in several regions should be integrated into the UNEP governing structures so that they could effectively serve as "regional governing councils" and make systematic inputs into matters of policy direction and programme priorities from regional standpoints, while allowing the Governing Council to concentrate on global environmental issues. Other representatives felt that there was no need radically to transform the governing structures of UNEP and that the focus of reform should be on making existing structures more effective. It was important, for example, that an intergovernmental, intersessional machinery for consultation, provision of advice, and policy direction was required for continuity and to ensure greater transparency, efficiency and accountability of the secretariat in implementing the decisions of the Governing Council.

5. One representative suggested that the Council should be replaced by an assembly with universal membership, including non-governmental participation, which should meet every two years, and that it should be supplemented by a governing council composed of thirty-six countries based on regional representation, meeting every six months, to guide the implementation of the assembly's decisions, make adjustments to the programme, in line with any changes in the financial situation of UNEP, and prepare for the meetings of the assembly. Delegations generally agreed that the Council and its intersessional body or bodies should benefit from the environmental expertise available from countries' capitals.

6. Several representatives observed that the issue of credible and sustainable financing for UNEP was closely related to the issue of making the UNEP governing structures more effective. They felt that the message going from the Council to the General Assembly at its 1997 special session with regard to the governance, role, functions and financing of UNEP should be consistent with the Council's position that UNEP should be strengthened, as the lead organization in the United Nations system in environmental affairs.

7. Several representatives supported the idea of an intersessional body, called the Executive Committee, based on representative membership and regional balance, meeting once every six months to serve as the intersessional body subsidiary to the Governing Council. They felt that the main functions of the Executive Committee would be to provide political and policy guidance and advice to the Executive Director; to assist in preparing the biennial programme of work and budget to be considered by the Council; and to provide advice to the Executive Director on adjustments as necessary, depending on exigencies, to the programme of work. In addition, the Executive Committee could develop proposals for the reform of the role and mandate of UNEP which might be submitted to a special session of the Governing Council envisaged for early 1998. In addition, the Committee of Permanent Representatives should continue its work, as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, focusing on monitoring and reviewing the implementation of Council's decisions; exchanging and coordinating views among Governments represented in Nairobi on matters concerning UNEP; and contributing to effective communication between UNEP and their capitals.

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8. Several other representatives felt that there was no need to have a separate Executive Committee and that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, when suitably mandated and empowered, would be able to serve effectively as the subsidiary organ of the Council, providing a forum for consultation, advice, and policy direction, on a regular basis. They felt that the Council's mandate needed to be strengthened as well, and that secretariat's procedures and mode of operation needed to be reformed as part of the total effort to improve the governance of UNEP.

9. One representative pointed out that it was important that the interests of the small island developing States should be appropriately represented in the UNEP governing structures. Another observed that the reform of working methods was as important as reform of the institutional structures of governance. A third observed that it was important to determine the links between UNEP and other organizations within and outside the United Nations system, including CSD, in order to ensure that UNEP and its governance structures would be able to fulfil effectively their respective mandates.

B. Implementation by UNEP of Agenda 21

10. Representatives noted with appreciation the review and appraisal of the implementation by UNEP of its responsibilities under Agenda 21, as reflected in documents UNEP/GC.19/INF.17, UNEP/GC.19/30 (sections A and B), UNEP/GC.19/26, UNEP/GC.19/INF.13 and UNEP/GC.19/32, annex. They recognized that the functions which UNEP needed to perform by way of follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development related to practically all parts of Agenda 21. They also acknowledged that funding constraints, among other things, had restricted the ability of UNEP to assist countries in implementing Agenda 21. It was agreed that, in view of the developments since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the functions of UNEP had to be better focused, its role strengthened, through, inter alia, greater involvement of the regional structures in the UNEP process, and its governing structures improved, and that it had to receive assured and adequate financing in order more effectively to dischard its responsibilities under Agenda 21. Many observed that UNEP administration and management also had to improve to ensure a more effective programme delivery. The Committee adopted a decision requesting the Executive Director to transmit to CSD, its Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly relevant documents concerning the review and appraisal of the implementation by UNEP of Agenda 21. It also decided that the President of the Council should present to the high-level segment of the fifth session of CSD the Council's declaration on preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21.

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GC.19/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.19/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work
UNEP/GC.19/1/Add.1/Rev.1	Revised annotated provisional agenda and organization of work
UNEP/GC.19/2	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/2/Add.1 and Corr.1	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/3	Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and Revision of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/4	Management of the trust funds: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/4/Rev.1 and Corr.1	Management of the trust funds: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/5	Developments in conference-servicing: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/6	Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/6/Add.1	Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/7	UNEP's effort towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Counties Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1995-1996: report of the Executive Director

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UNEP/GC.19/8	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat): report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/9	The role women in environment and development
UNEP/GC.19/10	Review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/11	Coordination of convention secretariats: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/12	Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the UNEP Governing Council on international cooperation in the field of environment
UNEP/GC.19/13	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/14	Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/15	Enhancing human resource utilization within the United Nations Environment Programme while ensuring the complementary and appropriate use of individual and corporate consultants: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/16	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility (GEF): report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/17	Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (IAEG): note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/18	The cost of administering trust funds: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/19	System-wide strategy in the field of the environment: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/20	Estimates of costs for UNEP to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/21	The Mercure satellite communications system: report of the Executive Director

UNEP/GC.19/22 and Corr.1	The Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1996-1997 and proposals for 1998-1999: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/23	Recommendations by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety for international action on persistent organic pollutants: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/24	Progress report on the development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and the consideration of further measures to reduce the risks form hazardous chemicals: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/25	The role of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/25/Add.1	The role of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities Modalities for the periodic intergovernmental review of progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/26	Report on the Global Environment Outlook
UNEP/GC.19/27	Globalization and the environment: Emerging issues on the environment and trade agenda: report by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/28	Progress report on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in UNEP and the United Nations system : report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/29 and Corr.1	Policy statement by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/30	Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/30/Add.1	Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997: note by the Executive Director Application of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

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UNEP/GC.19/31 and Corr.1 and 2	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/32	Mid-term review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/33	Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1994-1995 ended 31 December 1995: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.1	Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium ended 31 December 1995: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.2	Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations of the United Nations system: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.2/Add.1	Memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization, and World Health Organization, concerning cooperation in the International Programme on Chemical Safety: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.3	In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment: report on the implementation of the recommendations: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.4	Institutional arrangements for implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment form Land-based Activities: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.5	Status of implementation of the recommendations by the Board of Auditors: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.6	State of preparedness of documents for the nineteenth session of the Governing Council
UNEP/GC.19/INF.7	Report of the Government-designated Group of Experts on Further Measure to Reduce the Risks form a Limited Number of Chemicals: note by the Executive Director

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UNEP/GC.19/INF.8	Final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.9	Mid-term review and status of implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.10 and Corr.1	Ensuring adequate and predictable financing of the United Nations Environment Programme: a challenge to Governments: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.11 and Corr.1	Draft system-wide strategy in the field of the environment Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.12	Mid-term review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development Position Paper for International Environmental Law: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.13	Mid-term report on implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.14	Report of the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law for the Mid-Term Review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.15	Overview of UNEP's GEF-funded activities Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.16	Summary of UNEP Highlights of the Biennium 1994-1995: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.17	Implementation by UNEP of Agenda 21: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.18	Preliminary study on the need for and feasibility of new international environmental instruments aiming at sustainable development: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.19	Views of Greenpeace International on the timing, scope and mandate of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants: note by the Executive Director

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UNEP/GC.19/INF.20	Position of the Group of 77 and China on the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.21	Summary of responses to a letter from the Executive Director to Governments seeking their views on a possible integrated international mechanism concerning the management of hazardous chemicals
UNEP/GC.19/INF.22	Progress by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in the implementation of its programme in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.23	Analysis of the of the cost and benefits of possible further measures to address information needs related to the prior informed consent procedures: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.24	Additional information on the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/INF.25	Position of the Group of 77 and China on the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Memorandum dated 24 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to United Nations Environment Programme addressed to the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/L.1 UNEP/GC.19/L.1* (reissued for technical reasons) and Corr.1	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACBAQ) on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1996-1997 and proposals for 1998-1999: Note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/L.2	Management of trust funds: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.2/Rev.1	Management of trust funds: revision draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.3	The efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme toward the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1995-1996: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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UNEP/GC.19/L.4	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.5	Coordination of convention secretariats: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.6	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council on international cooperation in the field of the environment: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.7	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestine and other Arab territories: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.8	Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.9	Enhancing human-resource utilization within the United Nations Environment Programme, while ensuring the complementary and appropriate use of individual and corporate consultancies: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.10	Participation of United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.11	Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.12	The cost of administering trust funds: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.13	United Nations system-wide strategy in the field of the environment for the period 1998-2002: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.14	Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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UNEP/GC.19/L.15	Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.16	The role of women in environment and development: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.17	Recommendations by the International Forum on Chemical Safety for international action on persistent organic pollutants: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.18	Progress report on the development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and the consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.19	Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.20	Globalization and the environment: emerging issues on the environment and trade agenda: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.21	Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.22	Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.19/L.23	Preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21 The Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters: note by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.19/L.24 and Corr.1	Position of the Group of 77 and China on the midterm review of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
UNEP/GC.19/L.25 and Corr.1	Draft report of the Governing Council on its work of its nineteenth session
UNEP/GC.19/L.25/Add.1	Draft report of the Governing Council on its work of its nineteenth session

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UNEP/GC.19/L.25/Add.2	Draft report of the Governing Council on its work of its nineteenth session
UNEP/GC.19/L.26	Mid-term review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s and further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.27	Report on the Global Environment Outlook: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.28	Progress report on good environmental housekeeping practices and guidelines in UNEP and the United Nations system: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.29	Enhancing human-resource utilization within the United Nations Environment Programme, while ensuring the complementary and appropriate use of individual and corporate consultancies: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.30	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.31	Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.31/Rev/1	Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.32	Institutional arrangements for implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities Strengthening of the regional seas programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.33	Developments in conference-servicing: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.34	The United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.35	Oceans management: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole

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UNEP/GC.19/L.36	Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.37	Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and revision of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme Draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.38	Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.39	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.40	Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.41	United Nations system-wide strategy in the field of the environment for the period 1998-2002: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.42	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.43	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.44	Preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21: draft declaration of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, submitted by the President
UNEP/GC.19/L.44/Rev.1	Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the President
UNEP/GC.19/L.45	Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.46	Management of trust funds: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole

UNEP/GC.19/L.47	Management issues and the cost of administering trust funds: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.48	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.49	Coordination of convention secretariats: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.50	Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.51	Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.52	Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1994-1995 ended 31 December 1995: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.53	Freshwater: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.54	International Coral Reef Initiative: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.55	Global assessment: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.56	Globalization and the environment: emerging issues on the environment and trade agenda: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.57 and Corr.1	Further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.58	Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole

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UNEP/GC.19/L.59	The efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: 1995-1996: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.60	Enhanced coherence and efficiency among international activities related to chemicals: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.61 and Corr.1	International action to protect human health and the environment through measures while will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.62	Contribution of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to the special session of the General Assembly in 1997: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.63	Strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.64	The Mercure satellite communications system: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.65	Biosafety: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.66	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: draft decision approved by the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.67	Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Council: proposal by the Bureau
UNEP/GC.19/L.67/Rev.1 and Corr.1	Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Council: revised proposal by the Bureau
UNEP/GC.19/L.68	Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the President
UNEP/GC.19/L.69	The reform of the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the President

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UNEP/GC.19/L.70	Adoption of Report: report of the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/L.71	Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme Draft decision submitted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Governance
UNEP/GC.19/L.72	Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the Group of 77 and China
UNEP/GC.19/CW/L.1 and Corr.1	Draft report of the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/CW/L.1/Add.1	Draft report of the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/CW/L.2	Draft report of the Committee of the Whole
UNEP/GC.19/CW/L.3	Draft report of the Committee of the Whole
